

express

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Wednesday



Tony Blair is expected to outline a pullout plan.

Exit Strategy: Blair set to unveil Iraq withdrawal plan | **8**

Gitmo Ruling: Court backs White House on detainees | **3**

First Act:
Nats seeking fill-ins for injured Nick Johnson | **17**

ENTERTAINMENT



Asian Argh!
Chinese swash-bucklers raid the next 'Pirates' film. Plus, rapping with the Gym Class Heroes. >> **21-24**

Weather >> Less Cloudy



FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 34

Rebounding New Orleans Revels in Mardi Gras



ON BIG EASY STREET: A member of the Krewe of Zulu Mardi Gras parade tosses beads to parade-goers on St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans on Fat Tuesday. The still-rebuilding city is celebrating its second Mardi Gras since Hurricane Katrina struck. ♦ **Party on:** "We never needed it more." | **Page 4**

\$79M Tobacco Award Tossed

High court ruling a boon to opponents of big-dollar verdicts

WASHINGTON | The Supreme Court threw out a \$79.5 million award that a jury had ordered a cigarette maker to pay to a smoker's widow, a ruling that could bode well for other businesses seeking stricter limits on big-dollar verdicts.

The 5-4 decision Tuesday was a victory for Altria Group Inc.'s Philip Morris USA, which contested an Oregon Supreme Court decision upholding the jury's verdict.

Yet the decision did not address a key



Breyer

argument made by Philip Morris and its supporters across a wide range of businesses — that the size of the award was unconstitutionally large. They had hoped the court would limit the amount that can be awarded in punitive damage cases.

Instead, Justice Stephen Breyer wrote

in his majority opinion that the award to Mayola Williams could not stand because a jury may punish a defendant only for the harm done to the person who is suing, not to others whose cases were not before it.

Jesse Williams died of lung cancer in 1997 at the age of 67. He had smoked two packs a day of Marlboros for 45 years. His widow argued that the jury award was appropriate because it punished Philip Morris for a decades-long "massive market-directed fraud" that misled people into thinking cigarettes were not dangerous or addictive. (AP)

CRIME | **Grease and Desist** Dubbo, Australia, police will give out vouchers for free pizza and McDonald's food as a reward to children who don't commit crimes, the Daily Telegraph (Australia) reported. Operation Get Smart will be launched to foster friendships



between children and police, officials said. "If we see them doing good things ... they will be rewarded," detective Michael Willing said. The program is one of many to combat a growing youth crime and truancy problem in the city. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

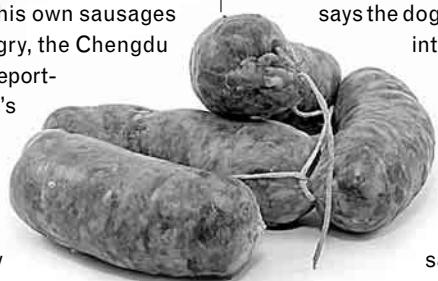


eyeOpeners

SHOPPING

Next: Train Him to Read a Grocery List

A man in Chengdu, China, has trained his dog to buy his own sausages when he's hungry, the Chengdu Evening Paper reported. Wu Qianhe's dog, Lele, barks when he is hungry; Qianhe then drops money



that the dog then takes in his mouth to stores. The store owners, who are used to Lele, say the dog will not release the money until he has received the sausages. Qianhe also says the dog can't be tricked into thinking other pieces of paper are money. "He is smart enough to tell the difference," Qianhe said. (EXPRESS)

WARDROBE MALFUNCTIONS

Next Question: Why Do You Wear Them?

A middle school teacher in Anderson, Ind., is blaming defective pants after being arrested for indecent exposure, the Indianapolis Star reported. Thomas L. Piles was found by police respond-

ing to a report of a man driving down the interstate, keeping pace alongside other cars while exposing himself. Officers found Piles' pants unzipped. When questioned about the alleged exposure, Piles told them, "These pants always do that." He was suspended from his job Monday while he defends himself against the charges. (EXPRESS)



SHIRLEY BAHADUR/AP

PARTYING

Muck and Cover

You thought Woodstock was a music festival gone messy, but this reveler at a performance by the band Muddle Dreams was setting new standards for slop rock. The group played during parades for the J'Ouvert celebration in the streets of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on Monday. J'Ouvert is the opening of Trinidad's carnival. The festival begins with a re-enactment of the 1881 Canboulay Riots, in which British soldiers were beaten back by black masqueraders who fought to take part in the festivities. (EXPRESS)

PROPS

He Was Charged With Racket-eering

A Cathedral City, Calif., man was arrested after trying to rob a gas station convenience store with a tennis racket, CBS News reported. Ernesto Martinez pulled up to the Morongo Travel Center and went inside with the racket, police said, then yelled that he was armed with an Uzi assault rifle and was robbing the store. While pointing the racket like a gun, he said he was going to kill everyone inside the store and burn the place down. (EXPRESS)

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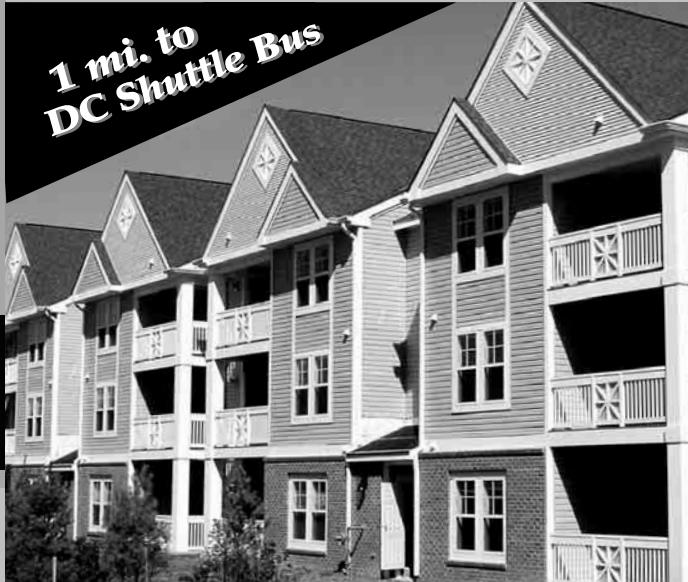
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CREAMED: Philadelphia-area police are on the lookout for two men who are using hot beverages to rob convenience stores. Police say one of the robbers buys a coffee or hot chocolate and then throws it in the cashier's face while his accomplice robs the register.

Nation

In Brief

MIAMI

Tiny Baby Kept in Hospital For a Few Extra Days

A girl born after just under 22 weeks in the womb — among the shortest gestation periods known for a live birth — will remain in a hospital a few extra days as a precaution, officials said Tuesday. Amillia Sonja Taylor, born Oct. 24 after just under 22 weeks in the womb, had been expected to be sent home on Tuesday. However, routine tests indicated she was vulnerable to infection, said Dr. Paul Fassbach, who has cared for the baby since shortly after she was born. (AP)



A ballpoint pen lies next to Amillia Taylor, born after 22 weeks in the womb.

FORT CAMPBELL, KY.

Soldier Pleads Guilty to Killing 14-Year-Old Girl

A U.S. soldier pleaded guilty Tuesday to rape and murder in the death of a 14-year-old girl and her family last year in Iraq. The military court still must decide whether the killings were premeditated and will hear evidence Wednesday. The court will consider whether Sgt. Paul E. Cortez, 24, should be found guilty of premeditated murder and whether he is guilty of conspiracy to commit premeditated murder. (AP)

Court: Rights of Detainees Limited

U.S. courts found to have no authority over foreign-born prisoners

WASHINGTON | A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that foreign-born prisoners seized as potential terrorists and held in Guantanamo Bay may not challenge their detention in U.S. courts, a key victory for President Bush's anti-terrorism plan.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled 2-1 that civilian courts no longer have the authority to consider whether the military is illegally holding the prisoners — a decision that will strip court access for hundreds of detainees with cases currently pending.

"The arguments are creative but not cogent. To accept them would be to defy the will of Congress," wrote Judge A. Raymond Randolph in the



A detainee is escorted by guards at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Foreign nationals held at the prison cannot challenge their detentions in U.S. courts, judges ruled.

25-page opinion, which was joined by Judge David B. Sentelle. Both are Republican appointees to the federal bench.

Barring federal court access was a key provision in the Military Com-

missions Act, which Bush pushed through Congress last year to set up a system run by the Defense Department to prosecute terrorism suspects.

Attorneys for the detainees

immediately said they would appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court, which last year struck down the Bush administration's original plan for trying detainees before military commissions.

"We're disappointed," said Shayanah Kadidal of the Center for Constitutional Rights. "The bottom line is that according to two of the federal judges, the president can do whatever he wants without any legal limitations as long as he does it offshore."

Under the commissions act, the government may indefinitely detain foreigners who have been designated as "enemy combatants" and authorizes the CIA to use aggressive but undefined interrogation tactics.

U.S. citizens and foreigners being held inside the country normally have the right to contest their detention before a judge. The Justice Department argues that foreign enemy combatants are not protected by the Constitution. HOPE YEN (AP)

Lax Sex Offender Rules a Concern in Wyoming

Officials worried by possible influx of offenders to state

CHEYENNE, WYO. | Wyoming, with its wide-open spaces and crisp, clear vistas, is starting to worry it has made itself too attractive in one respect: Convicted sex offenders from out of state are moving in,

apparently because the laws are less restrictive.

"We don't want to become the playground for sex offenders," Attorney General Pat Crank said. "But there must be something that sex offenders are seeing. Otherwise they wouldn't be moving here in the kind of numbers that we seem to be seeing."

Wyoming is home to about 1,200

known sex offenders. That is not a large number for such a sparsely populated state. But law enforcement officials and legislators are worried because 56 percent of those offenders moved to Wyoming after being convicted somewhere else.

Afraid that the word is out among ex-convicts that Wyoming has some of the nation's loosest restrictions on sex offenders, state legislators are

rushing to tighten the laws.

While other states often prohibit sex offenders from living near schools, daycare centers or other places with children, Wyoming has no such laws.

"They can live right next to a school if they want to. They can live in a home with children if they want to," said Laramie County sheriff's Sgt. Linda Gesell. (AP)

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Nation

36

Minutes a day employees estimate they spend on personal business at work, a study by staffing firm OfficeTeam finds. Bosses estimate staffers spend 43 minutes on such tasks.

End of Libby Trial at Hand

Attorneys spar over credibility questions in closing arguments

WASHINGTON | Prosecutors told jurors Tuesday that former vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby concocted an implausible story in the CIA leak case, while defense attorneys said it would be unfair to convict Libby in a case with so many memory failures.

Libby, the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, is charged with lying and obstructing the investigation into the 2003 leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity. Libby told authorities that he learned about Plame from Cheney, forgot about it, then learned it again a month later from NBC reporter Tim Russert.

In closing arguments of the month-long trial, prosecutor Peter Zeidenberg said it's hard to believe that Libby would forget



I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, left, and his attorney arrive at court Tuesday. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

about Plame since he was eagerly trying to discredit her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who had accused the Bush administration of doctoring prewar intelligence on Iraq.

"It's simply not credible to believe he would forget this information

about Wilson's wife," Zeidenberg said. "It's ludicrous."

Defense attorney Theodore Wells portrayed the case as one of competing recollections. Russert says the conversation about Plame never occurred. Wells said it did happen, noted several inconsistencies in Russert's statements and told jurors that the men may simply have different recollections about the same conversation.

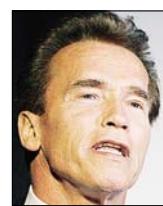
Zeidenberg rejected the idea that Libby was made a scapegoat by the White House to protect Karl Rove, Bush's top political strategist.

"Did you hear any evidence about a conspiracy, a White House conspiracy to scapegoat Mr. Libby?" Zeidenberg asked. "If you think back and draw blank, I suggest to you ladies and gentlemen, it's not a problem with your memory. It's because there was no such evidence."

If convicted, Libby faces up to 30 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines. (AP)

Judge Overrules Transfer Plan for Inmates in Calif.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. | A judge Tuesday threw out Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to transfer thousands of inmates to other states to relieve prison overcrowding.



Schwarzenegger said he would immediately appeal, saying dangerous convicts might otherwise have to be released early.

The governor invoked emergency powers in October when he ordered the Corrections Department to send thousands of inmates to private prisons in other states.

Two employee unions, including the one representing guards, filed lawsuits alleging the order violated state law.

The judge delayed her ruling from taking effect for 10 days to allow the governor time to appeal. (AP)

Mardi Gras a Respite For All of New Orleans

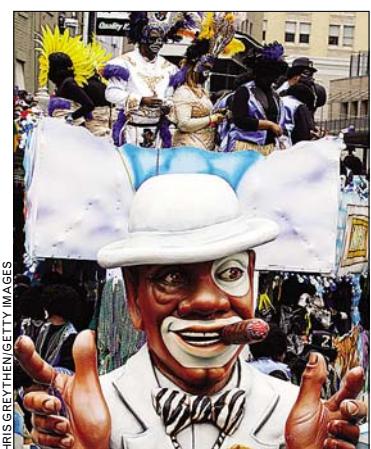
Second celebration since Katrina draws thousands to streets

NEW ORLEANS | Thousands of hurricane-weary residents joined with rowdy visitors for Fat Tuesday, taking a break from rebuilding New Orleans to put on wild costumes and celebrate the second Mardi Gras since Katrina.

John Ferguson, who is still rebuilding his house almost 18 months after the storm, said of the celebration: "We never needed it more."

The crowds appeared larger than last year, when an estimated 700,000 people were in the city for the final weekend and Mardi Gras.

Along some parade routes, crowds listened to Pete Fountain's Dixieland jazz as his Half Fast Marching Club kicked off the day.



Riders on a float in the Zulu parade toss beads to the crowd in New Orleans. CHRIS GEE/GETTY IMAGES

It was the 46th time the Grammy-winning clarinetist had made the march from Commander's Palace restaurant in the uptown section to the Mississippi River.

"This is like old times," said Fountain, 76. "New Orleans will always get ready for a party." (AP)

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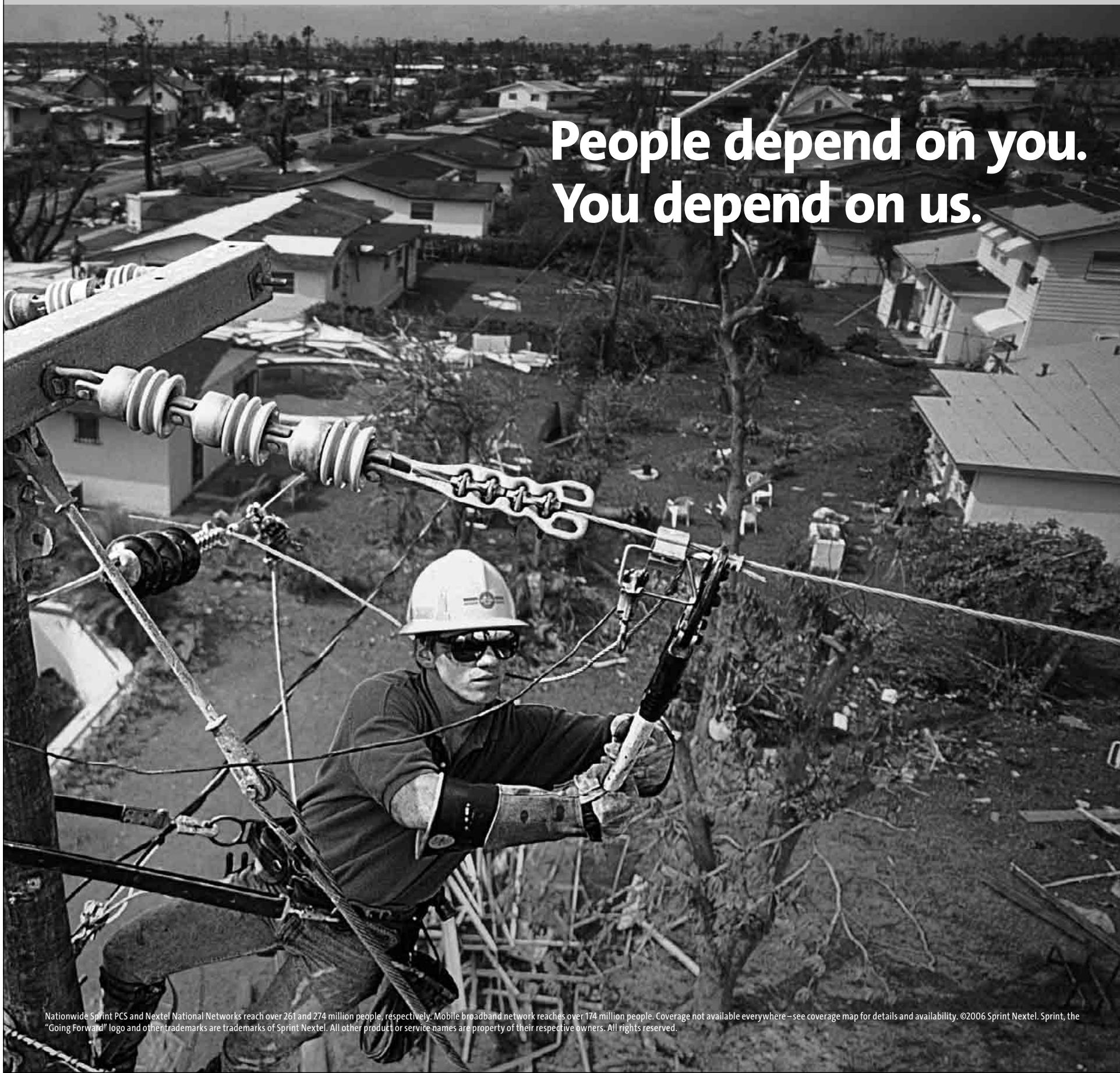
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Nation

"It's kind of a point of pride you might say for a lot of climbers — that you can take care of yourself out there." —**Trevor Liston**, responding to charges that he and other climbers endanger rescue teams by climbing Mount Hood in winter

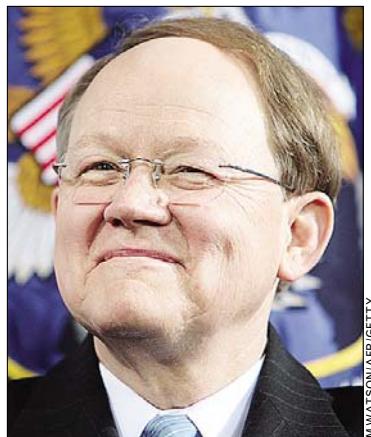


Bush Welcomes Spy Chief

New intelligence head wants language skills made agency priority

WASHINGTON | President Bush instructed the new U.S. spy chief on Tuesday to focus on finding more recruits with the language skills and background needed to collect information on al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

At a swearing-in ceremony Tuesday at Bolling Air Force Base outside Washington for retired Vice Adm. Mike McConnell as the second director of national intelligence, Bush told McConnell, who took his new post several days ago, to integrate the nation's 16 spy agencies better and improve information sharing among them and with others throughout government.



Mike McConnell is sworn in as director of national intelligence Tuesday.

The president, and later McConnell, also focused on a persistent weakness in American intelligence-gathering: a dearth of operatives who speak critical languages, such

as Arabic or Farsi.

"The old policies have hampered some commonsense reforms, such as hiring first- and second-generation Americans who possess native language skills, cultural insights and a keen understanding of the threats we face," McConnell said.

McConnell's resume includes nearly four decades of work in the intelligence community. He heads an office created by Congress just over two years ago to coordinate national intelligence.

The office does not oversee some Defense Department intelligence operations and lacks direct authority over some collection components of the intelligence agencies.

McConnell replaces John Negroponte, who is nominated to become deputy secretary of the State Department. (AP)

Audit Uncovers Flaws In Terrorism Reports

Justice Department stats misclassify most cases, new study finds

WASHINGTON | Federal prosecutors counted immigration violations, marriage fraud and drug trafficking among anti-terror cases in the four years after 9/11 even though no evidence linked them to terror activity, a Justice Department audit said Tuesday.

Overall, nearly all of the terrorism-related statistics on investigations, referrals and cases examined by department Inspector General Glenn A. Fine were either diminished or inflated. Only two of 26 sets of department data reported between 2001 and 2005 were accurate, the audit found.

Responding, a Justice spokesman pointed to figures showing that prosecutors in the department's headquarters for the most part either accurately or underreported their data — underscoring what he called efforts to avoid pumping up federal terror statistics.

The numbers, used to monitor the department's progress in battling terrorists, are reported to Congress and the public and help, in part, shape the department's budget.

Fine's office took care to say the flawed data appear to be the result of "decentralized and haphazard" methods of collection or disagreement over how the numbers are reported, and do not appear to be intentional. (AP)

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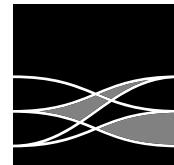
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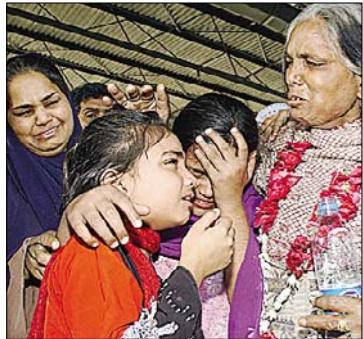
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World



EASY RIDER: Stressed-out Israeli commuters got a peaceful surprise as they boarded a bus on Tuesday: a yoga instructor coaching them on how to breathe correctly. Instructor Miri Harovi came up with the yoga bus idea and the Tel Aviv bus company agreed to the plan.

In Brief



A Pakistani woman, right, a survivor of the train blast in India, greets her family.

NEW DELHI

Police Release Sketches Of Suspects in Train Attack

Two men were allowed to jump from a Pakistan-bound train shortly before it erupted in flames and killed 68 people, officials said Tuesday, releasing sketches of the men and raising questions about security along the India-Pakistan rail link. The search for suspects came as Pakistani Foreign Minister Khursheed Kasuri arrived in India, saying the attack made peace talks between the longtime rivals even more urgent. (AP)

JERUSALEM

Israel Rules Out Talks With Abbas After New Unity Deal

Israel on Tuesday ruled out holding Mideast peace talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas once he forms a coalition with Hamas militants, saying the new unity government must give in to international demands to recognize Israel's right to exist. Hoping to find a way to persuade Hamas to moderate its hardline position, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with Arab security chiefs in Jordan and asked for their advice on how to proceed, Arab officials said. (AP)

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Bomber Injures 7 NATO Troops in Attack on Hospital

A suicide bomber dressed in a doctor's white coat slipped into a hospital compound in eastern Afghanistan, where he was challenged by police and NATO soldiers before detonating his explosives. Seven NATO troops and a hospital employee were injured, a local official said. (AP)

BBC: PM Has Iraq Withdrawal Plan

Blair to announce 1,500 British troops will return home soon

LONDON | Prime Minister Tony Blair will announce on Wednesday a new timetable for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq, with 1,500 to return home in several weeks, the BBC reported.

Blair will also tell the House of Commons during his regular weekly appearance that a total of about 3,000 British soldiers will have left

southern Iraq by the end of 2007, if the security there is sufficient, the British Broadcasting Corp. said, quoting government officials who weren't further identified.

The BBC said Blair was not expected to say when the rest of Britain's forces would leave Iraq. Currently, Britain has about 7,100 soldiers there.

Britain has long been the most



Blair

important coalition member in Iraq after the U.S.. But Blair knows the British public and politicians from his own Labour Party want the troops out as quickly as possible.

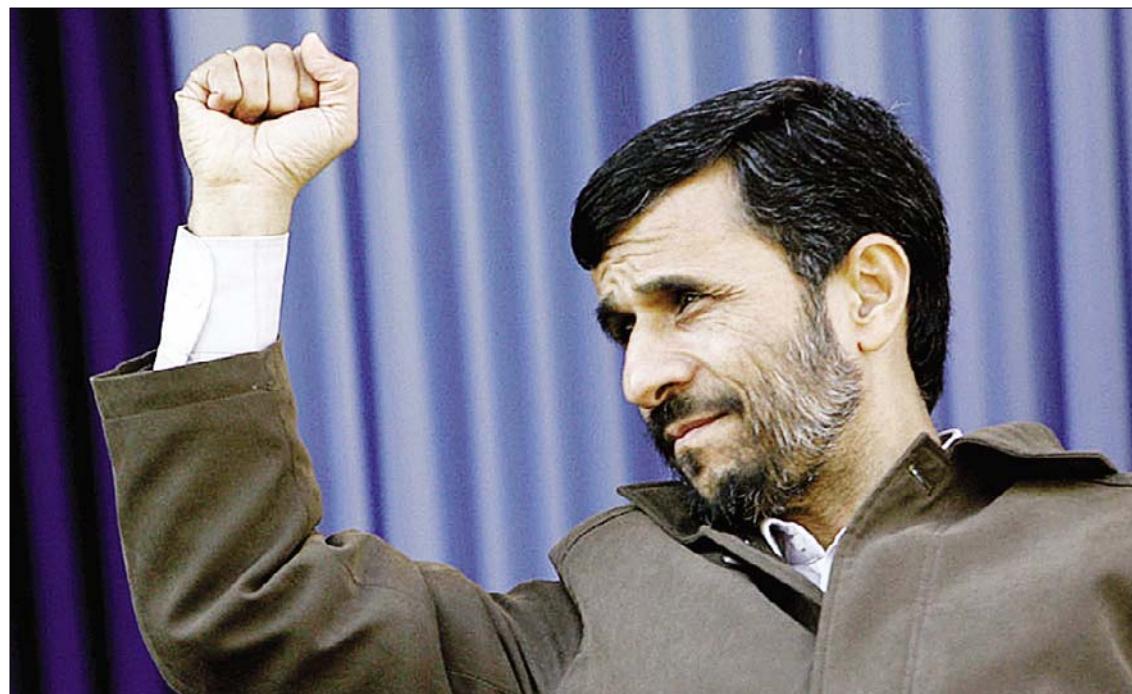
Militarily, a British withdrawal isn't likely to have much effect on the stepped-up U.S. operation in Baghdad. However, Iraqi forces could have a tough time maintaining security in mostly Shiite southern Iraq, including Basra city.

Blair's Downing Street office refused to comment on the BBC report. THOMAS WAGNER (AP)

ELSEWHERE IN IRAQ

→ A hidden bomb ripped through a tanker carrying chlorine gas Tuesday, killing nine people and filling hospital beds with more than 150 wheezing villagers north of Baghdad.

→ The tanker attack was part of a string of blasts—including a suicide bomber who killed seven mourners at a funeral—that further rattled officials marking the first week of a major Iraqi security crackdown. (AP)



MEHDI GHASEMI/AP

MAKING WAVES: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tehran will halt enrichment only if Western nations do the same.

Tehran Faces U.N. Nuclear Deadline

Amid defiant rhetoric, leaders voice openness to further negotiations

VIENNA, AUSTRIA | Iran's chief nuclear envoy said Tuesday his country wants to negotiate over its uranium enrichment program, on the eve of a U.N. Security Council deadline that carries the threat of harsher sanctions. But the country's hardline president said Iran will halt enrichment only if Western nations do the same.

Sanctions could be triggered by

a report from Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, to his agency's 35 board-member nations, expected Wednesday. That report is expected to say Iran has expanded enrichment activities instead of freezing them.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaking to a crowd of thousands in Iran, said his country was ready to stop its enrichment program, but only if Western nations do the same — something the U.S. and others with similar programs are unlikely to even consider.

"Justice demands that those who want to hold talks with us shut down their nuclear fuel cycle program, too," he said. "Then, we can hold dialogue under a fair atmosphere."

Nevertheless, Ahmadinejad's speech was unusually conciliatory, avoiding fiery denunciations of the West. Iran's call for talks — voiced separately on Tuesday by Ahmadinejad, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and senior nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani — suggested an attempt to convey flexibility on the eve of the deadline. GEORGE JAHN (AP)

Somalis Flee Latest Violence

Insurgent battles rock Mogadishu; U.N. OKs peacekeepers from AU

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA | Somalis fled their violent capital by the hundreds on Tuesday, in cars and on foot, pulling carts heaped with belongings in a desperate attempt to leave an onslaught of mortar and rocket attacks behind them.

Amid the chaos, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Tuesday to authorize an 8,000-member African Union force to help stabilize Somalia and set the stage for U.N. peacekeepers to take over the long-term job of bringing peace to the Horn of Africa nation.

Government forces and Ethiopian troops exchanged heavy fire overnight with insurgents, leaving 15 dead and 45 injured in the heaviest fighting this year in Mogadishu.

"We cannot keep our children in this violent situation," said Yonis Nor, who left the capital with his eight children. "I am scared."

The insurgency has grown increasingly bloody since the government, backed by soldiers from Ethiopia, drove out an Islamic group that wanted to run the country according to Islamic law. (AP)



JOIE DE VIN: Exports of French wine and spirits swelled by 12.9 percent last year, the export federation said Tuesday, noting especially good progress in exporting to the U.S. market. The total sum of wine and spirit exports reached \$11.49 billion in 2006.

World

Gambian's AIDS 'Cure' Raises Alarm

President claims herbal concoction can remedy deadly illness

BANJUL, GAMBIA | From the pockets of his billowing white robe, Gambia's president pulls out a plastic container, closes his eyes in prayer and rubs a green herbal paste onto the rib cage of the patient — a concoction he claims is a cure for AIDS.

He then orders the thin man to swallow a bitter yellow drink, followed by two bananas.

"Whatever you do, there are bound to be skeptics, but I can tell you my method is foolproof," President Yahya Jammeh told an Associated Press reporter, surrounded by bodyguards in his presidential compound. "Mine is not an argument, mine is a proof. It's a declaration. I can cure AIDS and I will."

In a continent suffering from the world's worst AIDS epidemic, Jammeh's claims of a miracle cure are alarming public health workers



HEALING HOPE: Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh prays while administering his alleged herbal cure for HIV/AIDS to a patient at the State House in Banjul, Gambia.

already struggling against faith healers dispensing herbal remedies.

The biggest concern is that the Gambian leader requires patients to cease taking their anti-retroviral

drugs, a move that risks weakening their immune systems and making them even more prone to infection, said Dr. Antonio Filipe Jr., head of the World Health Organization in

neighboring Senegal.

Since January, when he announced his cure to a gathering of foreign diplomats, Jammeh, 41, has thrown the bureaucratic machinery of this small West African country behind the claim. Although the HIV rate is relatively low in Gambia compared to other African nations — 1.3 percent of the country's 1.6 million people are infected — the president's claim has left international health organizations in a bind.

Filipe was diplomatic about Jammeh's claims, saying his organization respects the president's point of view. But, he added: "As the World Health Organization, we would like to state quite clearly the following — No. 1: So far, there is no cure for AIDS."

Jammeh, a former army colonel who gained control in a 1994 coup, says his treatment is entirely voluntary and argues that his medications cannot be mixed with other drugs because "I don't want any complications." RUMINI CALLIMACHI (AP)

EU Ministers Agree to New Emissions Pact

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM | European Union environment ministers agreed Tuesday on an ambitious target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 in one of the boldest moves yet to contain global warming — a goal likely to lead to mandatory limits for cars and pollution allowances for airlines.

But the goal — to cut emissions to 20 percent below their 1990 levels — could put a heavy burden on the EU's newest members.

The ministers said the target could be pushed to 30 percent below the 1990 levels if other industrial countries sign on to the effort.

The target, which must be approved at an EU summit next month, is a critical first step in a global warming strategy that must be in place by the time the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012. The EU ministers called for U.N.-led talks to finish by 2009 to fix a new climate change goal after Kyoto expires. (AP)

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World



NASSER NASSER/AP Kevin Lin, left, Ray Zahab and Charlie Engle run across the Sahara Desert.

Runners' Big Feat in The Desert

3 athletes cross the Sahara's 4,000 hot, sandy miles in 111 days

THE WESTERN DESERT, EGYPT | Three ultra-endurance athletes have just done something most would consider insane: They ran the equivalent of two marathons a day for 111 days to become the first modern runners to cross the Sahara Desert's grueling 4,000 miles.

"It will take time to sink in ... but this is an absolutely once-in-a-lifetime thing. They say ignorance is bliss, and now that I know how hard this is, I would never consider crossing the Sahara on foot again," said American runner Charlie Engle, 44, hours after he and the others completed the run.

Engle said he, Canadian Ray Zahab, 38, and Kevin Lin, 30, of Taiwan, ran the final stretch of their journey on four hours of sleep. Once they hit the Red Sea, they put their hands in the water to signify crossing the finish line.

A film crew followed them, chronicling the desert journey for actor Matt Damon's production company, LivePlanet. Damon plans to narrate the "Running the Sahara" documentary.

Throughout the run, the runners were stricken with tendinitis, severe diarrhea, cramping and knee injuries, all while running through the intense heat and wind — often without a paved road in sight.

"This has been a life-changing event," Engle said. ANNA JOHNSON (AP)



ALL'S WELL: A George Mason University professor was honored Tuesday for his efforts to develop an economical filter for well water. Abul Hussam received the National Academy of Engineering's Grainger Challenge Prize for Sustainability.

Local

Air and Space Museum Visited Less

Officials unsure of why 4.4 million fewer came in 2006 than in 2003

WASHINGTON | It's a mystery even for researchers at the Smithsonian Institution: What happened to the huge crowds at the National Air and Space Museum?

The estimated number of visitors to the museum plunged to about 5

million in 2006 from a six-year high of 9.4 million in 2003, according to the latest attendance report from the museum. And the decline has been far sharper than that of the overall Smithsonian, which includes 18 museums and the National Zoo.

Last year, attendance at what has been one of the world's most-visited museums fell below that of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, which features

ancient fossils and the Hope Diamond. Museum officials say this is the only instance in recent memory in which the Air and Space Museum trailed the history museum.

Air and Space Museum spokesman Peter Golkin said officials are not worried. He noted the museum is still the most popular overall.

One explanation for the downturn could be that the museum hasn't opened a major new gallery since

2003. Jason Hall, spokesman for the American Association of Museums, said a museum's "novelty factor" is important in attracting visitors, and it can help explain sudden increases and downturns in attendance.

For the air and space museum, 2003 was a banner year. The museum had special events in 2003 about the 100th anniversary of powered flight and tragic fate of the space shuttle Columbia. BRETT ZONGKER (AP)

HEARSAY | DRIVING

"What we'll see in the next few weeks after the cold weather starts to let up and warmer weather descends upon us is the advent of more potholes."

—ERIK LINDON

THE DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPOKESMAN TUESDAY ON EXPECTED ROAD PROBLEMS AS ICE BEGINS TO MELT ACROSS THE AREA. TEMPERATURES IN THE 50S ARE PREDICTED FOR THIS WEEK.

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Construction of U.S. Capitol Expansion Is Delayed Again

The biggest expansion of the U.S. Capitol since construction of the House and Senate wings 150 years ago is delayed — again. As Roll Call reported Tuesday, House appropriators are demanding Architect of the Capitol officials get "realistic about deadlines for the massive underground project that broke ground almost seven years ago." The addition under the East Lawn was supposed to be mostly ready by President Bush's second inauguration in January 2005. (EXPRESS)

MOUNT VERNON, VA.

Estate to Begin Sales Of Whiskey From Distillery

The Mount Vernon estate may soon begin selling whiskey from George Washington's rebuilt distillery, which is scheduled to open to the public next month. Gov. Timothy Kaine

is expected to sign into law a measure that would allow Mount Vernon to sell small amounts of the first president's own brand of rye whiskey, Kaine spokesman Kevin Hall said. Washington was the nation's largest producer of whiskey in 1799, producing 11,000 gallons a year in a state-of-the-art distillery, historians with the estate have said. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Cigarettes Blamed for Start Of Fatal Row House Blaze

Fire officials have determined that a Tuesday morning row house fire that killed an elderly woman started from smoking-related causes. The flames were then fueled by large amounts of paper and other materials in the house. Fire officials said the damage is estimated at \$230,000. Authorities said firefighters called to the home in Northeast around 3:30 a.m. were able to rescue an elderly man found inside the home. (AP)



Blaze origin: Officials say woman was smoking in a cloth recliner chair that caught fire. Today's Post, Metro

WASHINGTON | FLIPPING OUT



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

AISLE WILD: Washington National Cathedral administrative assistant Anna Alston Donnelly tries to flip a pancake Tuesday while racing up and down the aisle during the Shrove Tuesday — a Christian day of feasting — pancake races in Washington.

The Lotteries

Tuesday, February 20

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	6-4-2
Evening Lucky Numbers	N/A
Mid-day DC 4	8-1-8-3
Evening DC 4	N/A
Rolling Cash Five	N/A
Daily 6	N/A

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	I-0-2
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Evening Pick 3	
Mid-day Pick 4	9-4-8-3
Evening Pick 4	N/A
Match 5	N/A

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	5-2-8
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	9-1-8
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	2-7-4-9
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	2-2-6-4
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	15-22-23-29-34
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	3-4-6-15-16

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Former Walter Reed leader is accused of soliciting charity funds

WASHINGTON | Walter Reed Army Medical Center is investigating the former head of a program that aids injured soldiers.

The probe is into the activities of Michael J. Wagner, who until last month ran the Army's Medical Family Assistance Center, Army spokesman Paul Boyce said Tuesday. The center links businesses, chari-

ties and other donors with wounded troops who need financial help or families strained by living costs, airfares and other expenses when they come to Washington to visit or help care for injured soldiers.

Documents and interviews with current and former staff members at the assistance center revealed that Wagner was seeking funders and soliciting donations for a Dallas charity at the same time he administered the Army program.

Wagner is now a director of the Military, Veteran and Family

Assistance Foundation, a nonprofit charity group that provides services and resources for veterans and their families.

Wagner denied he had solicited funds for the charity or made contact with donors during office hours. "It's just not true," he said. "I intentionally stayed out of that. I couldn't do that. I couldn't do both."

Wagner said the charity was founded by his brother and that he did not officially become its executive director until he left Walter Reed. (AP)

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Money

Long Road to Radio Merger

XM, Sirius deal faces regulatory hurdles, compatibility issues

NEW YORK | Satellite radio rivals XM and Sirius have every intention of merging, but not just yet.

Until they clear serious regulatory hurdles, Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. and XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. will operate as separate companies, meaning that any direct benefits to consumers, such as sharing programming, could be a ways off. What's more, their broadcasting systems aren't compatible with each other, so in order to receive signals from both, you'd have to buy a new kind of receiver, which is still being developed.

Sirius and XM also say they have every intention, once the deal is done, of sharing at least some programming between their



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/BETTY IMAGES

Federal regulators will have to approve the XM/Sirius satellite radio merger.

lineups without the need for a new radio, providing the companies can reach the necessary deals with content providers.

That could mean a potential satellite radio customer wouldn't necessarily have to choose between hearing baseball games — currently available only on XM — and NFL games, which are on Sirius.

In the meantime, both com-

panies are going to great pains to explain that they'll continue to provide full service to their existing customers.

Sirius's CEO Mel Karmazin, who will lead the new company, told analysts Tuesday that the company could consider raising subscription prices later but only after seeing how robust the market is. Both Sirius and XM currently charge about \$13 per month.

The companies say they hope to complete the process by the end of the year; however Wall Street analysts remain split over the likelihood of the merger being cleared by federal regulators.

The companies have left several other questions open, including what the new company would be named and where it would be headquartered. XM is based in Washington, D.C., while Sirius is based in New York. SETH SUTEL (AP)

JetBlue Introduces Bill of Rights

NEW YORK | JetBlue Airways introduced a customer bill of rights on Tuesday that promises vouchers to fliers who experience delays, hoping the move wins back passengers after an operational meltdown damaged its brand and stock price.

Founder and chief executive

David Neeleman described the crisis as "a huge bump in the road" but said JetBlue would move past it. He said he had no intention of resigning in the wake of the worst corporate mess in the airline's seven-year history.

Under the bill of rights, custom-

ers will be compensated based on the length of delays. The value of the vouchers range from \$25 to the full amount of the ticket.

The airline said it was fully operational on Tuesday after a sequence of events led to the cancellation of 1,096 flights, tarnishing the reputation of a carrier known for its low fares and customer service. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
FlaRock	66.54	+19.58	+41.7
KBW Inc n	36.35	+4.55	+14.3
SmrtFn	21.60	+2.54	+13.3
CrwldB	6.36	+.67	+11.8
ServiceCp	11.80	+.90	+8.3

Losers

WestlkChm	33.00	-4.11	-11.1
CinciBell	4.44	-.49	-9.9
Tefron	9.13	-.94	-9.3
BldBear	27.82	-2.62	-8.6
BPr Pru	56.50	-4.44	-7.3

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.25	5.25
3-month disc	5.04	5.04
2-year	4.80	4.94
10-year	4.67	4.81
30-year	4.78	4.81

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
TB Woods	24.67	+.767	+45.1
Lesco	14.30	+.387	+37.1
BioDlvry If	3.68	+.78	+26.9
EmpireRst	12.63	+.263	+26.3
Iomai	6.09	+.08	+1.3

Losers

RadaEl h rs	2.18	-.30	-12.1
BioMarin	18.00	-2.45	-12.0
DCAP Grp	2.61	-.34	-11.5
TAT Tch	25.23	-2.95	-10.5
PrvtMed	2.99	-.31	-9.4

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5116	.5127	.5745
Canadian Dollar	1.1707	1.1635	1.1515
European Euro	.7612	.7612	.8382
Japanese Yen	119.96	119.26	118.16
Mexican Peso	10.9874	10.9973	10.4270
Taiwanese Dollar	33.03	32.95	32.38

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+4.14

+0.28

1459.68

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
CBS B	31.95	+.14	+2.5
ClearChan	36.43	-.02	+2.5
Comcast	41.45	-.18	-2.1
Comc sp	40.94	-.21	-2.2
DiracTV	23.88	...	-4.3
Disney	35.05	+.16	+2.3
EchoStar	43.17	+.64	+13.5
McGrW	68.61	+.03	+.9
NewsCpA	23.98	+.44	+11.6
NewsCpB	25.10	+.46	+12.8
Omnicom	106.34	+1.52	+1.7
Thomson	42.85	-.78	+3.4
TimeWarn	21.67	+.10	-.5
ViacomB	40.39	-.08	-1.6
WPP Gp	74.68	+.32	+10.2

Cars



Starting in 2008, the estimated EPA fuel economy ratings will be based on a new system that includes a number of variables such as rough road surfaces and hills.

Going Back To the Gallon

20 years later, the EPA realizes it's the fuel economy, stupid

MILEAGE | If you simply guess how many miles per gallon of fuel your vehicle gets, you might do about as well as the Environmental Protection Agency has during the last couple of decades.

Last year, the EPA announced its first major revision of fuel economy testing procedures since 1986, aiming to create more realistic mileage comparisons among vehicles.

The EPA acknowledges that fuel economy estimates may drop by as much as 30 percent, an explicit admission that its previous practices were far off the mark.

A wide range of experts say the new testing regimen should provide more accurate estimates for many drivers, but that they will still fail to capture results that reflect many real-world factors in terms of road, terrain, climate and drivers.

The original method was developed in the 1960s, based on a hypothetical Los Angeles commuter who drove about 11 miles to and from work with an average speed of 21 mph and a maximum speed of 58 mph, according to the 412-page EPA report that implements the new test

method. It assumed a driver would encounter no hills and a constant temperature of about 75 degrees, among many other fictions.

The EPA issued its test procedures in the mid-1970s, updating them last in 1986. The new system takes effect in the 2008 model year.

This system introduces a number of variables, including the more aggressive acceleration and deceleration that drivers increasingly use. It also considers cold start-ups, cold temperatures, the use of air conditioning, some hills and rough road surfaces. A top speed of 80 mph is used as well.

"People's driving behavior has really changed since 1985," said Eric Fedewa, director of global powertrain forecasts at CMS Worldwide, a consulting company. "It didn't reflect the way people use their vehicles with a lot of jack-rabbit starts, strong accelerations and high speeds over longer distances."

Under the old system, few drivers have been able to meet or exceed the EPA fuel economy ratings. When the new system is in place, the ratings are supposed to fall closer to the mid-range of actual fuel consumption experiences, said EPA spokesman John Millet. RALPH VARTEBEDIAN
(THE LOS ANGELES TIMES)



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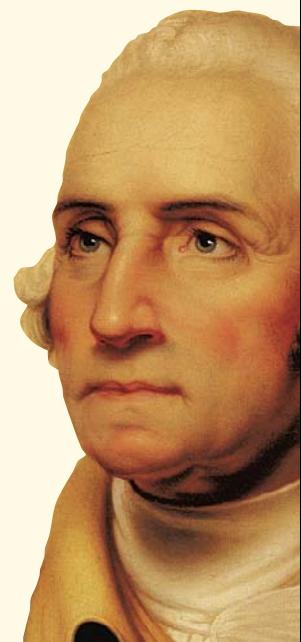
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Cars



GREG JAREK/AP

You're not going to stare in dropped-jaw shock at the 2007 Kia Rondo, but, considering the price they're asking for it, who cares?

Tall Order for Kia

Rondo offers a more affordable alternative to so-called CUVs

ROAD TEST | Car shoppers won't have to spend a fortune to get a trendy tall wagon with flexible cargo space and room for up to seven passengers.

The new-for-2007 Kia Rondo offers a less-costly alternative to many so-called "crossover utility vehicles" whose prices are right up there with rugged sport utility vehicles.

The Rondo has seven seats and every manner of factory option available, including leather interior trim, power moonroof, upgraded Infinity AM/FM stereo and rear spoilers.

Like other newfangled tall wagons, the Rondo rides on a car platform and has car-like handling.

Passengers sit up higher from the pavement than they would in a regular auto. But they're not so high up that they have to climb upward to get inside the Rondo.

Best of all, with six air bags, electronic stability control and antilock brakes all standard, the Rondo earned five out of five stars in federal government frontal crash testing and at least four out of five stars in side crash testing.

And, as with all Kias, the

NUTS & BOLTS

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Powertrain: Front-engine, front-wheel drive, five-passenger, mid-size, tall wagon; 2.4-liter, double overhead cam, inline four cylinder | **Wheelbase:** 111.2 inches | **Measurements:** 179 inches long, 3,333 pounds | **Mileage:** 21 mpg city, 29 mpg highway

Rondo comes with a noteworthy new-vehicle warranty. It provides limited bumper-to-bumper coverage for five years or 60,000 miles, whichever comes first, and limited powertrain coverage for 10 years or 100,000 miles.

This warranty is important, because, despite talk by Kia officials that vehicle quality is improving, the quality of other automakers is improving, too. And Kia's ratings in the much-publicized 2006 J.D. Power and Associates' Initial Quality Study and Vehicle Dependability Study remained below industry average.

The Rondo is available with third-row seating. There are nearly negligible front and rear overhangs

on the Rondo, where there's little of the Rondo metal body hanging out past the wheels in front and back.

Don't be deceived by pictures of the Rondo. It looks smaller in photos than it is in real life.

Styling is pleasant, if a bit plain in front. In contrast to many crossovers, the Rondo doesn't try to look like an SUV. It looks like what it is — a tall, mainstream, five-door wagon.

The Rondo rolls over road bumps without fuss and keeps the rough stuff away from passengers. It isn't a cushy ride as much as it is a stable, well-managed ride that lets you feel the road without being fatigued.

The power-assisted, rack-and-pinion steering has a decent on-center feel, doesn't need correcting in long-sweeping curves and interacts with the driver predictably and comfortably.

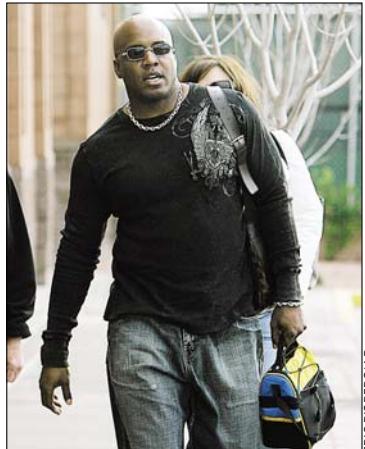
You'll appreciate the good placement of a "dead pedal" — a flat, sort of upright spot to the left of the pedals for the driver to brace his or her left foot.

Views out of the wagon are good enough so you could see much of the traffic around you. But you can't see around large SUVs, pickup trucks and vans, and the metal pillars at the sides of the Rondo's windshield can obscure views of pedestrians during turns. ANN M. JOB (AP)

HEAVY DECISION: Heavyweight Tommy Morrison will fight again, more than a decade after he was suspended from boxing following a positive HIV test, ESPN reported. Morrison will face John Castle in a four-round bout on Thursday in West Virginia.



Sports



Barry Bonds arrives at Giants' spring training in Scottsdale, Ariz. on Tuesday.

Fit Bonds Reports to S.F. Camp

Giants slugger insists he's unfazed by talk of a possible indictment

BASEBALL | Barry Bonds had a pointed message for the grand jury: Go ahead, investigate me.

After arriving at spring training Tuesday, more fit than in recent years following a productive winter of conditioning, the slugger insisted he's unfazed by all his off-the-field issues and is ready to resume his pursuit of the home run record.

"Let them investigate. Let them, they've been doing it this long," Bonds said Tuesday after his first workout this year with the San Francisco Giants. "It doesn't weigh on me at all — at all. It's just you guys talking. It's just media conversation."

When Bonds showed up, he waved twice to the swarm of people waiting to see him make his entrance, then quickly headed into Scottsdale Stadium to get to work.

Bonds, the seven-time NL MVP who's still facing constant questions about whether his home run pursuit was fueled by steroids, finally signed his \$15.8 million, one-year deal last week after he and the Giants squabbled over contract language.

"My contract wasn't a problem. I'm here," Bonds said. "It was never a problem." JANIE McCUALEY (AP)

First Test Involves Winning Abroad

D.C. United plays in Honduras just a month after starting training

UNITED | The story of D.C. United's 2007 campaign will be impacted significantly by the very first game, to be played with relatively little preparation and in an environment that historically has bedeviled even the most accomplished Major League Soccer sides.

United's season begins quietly tonight in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, against 20-time national champion CD Olimpia. The game marks D.C.'s debut in this year's CONCACAF Champions Cup, the continental tournament for which United qualified by finishing with the league's best regular season record in 2006.

With the 2005 advent of FIFA's inclusive Club World Cup, the CONCACAF tournament is critical for a league hoping to make its mark on the world stage. But the fact that MLS clubs have just started preseason training, and their abysmal record in Latin America, have proven to be huge stumbling blocks in recent years.

Midfielder Ben Olsen told The Washington Post "it's tough to tell"



NEW ADDITION: D.C. United's new Brazilian forward Luciano Emilio tries to get by defenders during an exhibition against the Danish team Odense two weeks ago.

if United is ready for a game this soon after beginning training camp. "We haven't gone through 90 min-

utes in a real game," he added, "but we've been building up to it."

Although competitive on U.S.

soul, MLS teams have been inept in international competition abroad. United has been one of the worst offenders.

The league overall is just 4-23-1 in Latin America, and one of those wins was by forfeit. United is 0-3-0, and has scored just two goals while yielding 12. D.C. was humiliated in the 2005 Champions Cup, 5-0, by Mexican champ UNAM in Mexico City before blowing a two-goal lead in a 3-2 loss to a Chilean club in a South American tournament.

Before that game, D.C. captain and former Bolivian international Jaime Moreno called MLS's approach to foreign competition "too nice" and "too naive," but MLS hasn't learned. The league's last win in Latin America came in 2003.

Tonight's game is the first of a two-game, total-goals quarter-final. The home leg is March 1 at RFK Stadium. If United can keep tonight's game close, it will have an excellent chance to progress to the semifinals.

If not, it will have blown a valuable opportunity to play meaningful international games nearly six weeks before the regular season kicks off. BRIAN STRAUS

Man. U and Real Madrid Both Win

Teams take early leads in the second round of the Champions League

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE | Manchester United's beat Lille 1-0 on Tuesday on a disputed goal in a Champions League game marred by crowd problems.

Real Madrid, meanwhile, helped ease the pressure on its coach by beating Bayern Munich 3-2.

Also, PSV Eindhoven beat Arsenal 1-0 and Celtic held AC Milan to a 0-0 tie in the other first leg matches of the second round.

Ryan Giggs scored the winning goal for United, curling in a free kick in the 83rd minute. That prompted an angry reaction from Lille's



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs scores to give his team a 1-0 victory over Lille.

players, who claimed Giggs had not waited for the referee's whistle and took the free kick too quickly.

"When the goalkeeper asks to place his wall, you should wait for the referee's whistle," Lille captain Gregory Tafforeau said. "There was no whistle at all and the player shot directly and the result is a goal."

Lille had a goal by Peter Odemwingie ruled out because the referee said he pushed United defender Nemanja Vidic.

Soon after the game started, some visiting fans were pushed against a high metal security barrier designed to keep fans off the field. Although several fans were helped over the barrier, there were no reports of any major injuries.

The match was played at nearby Lens because Lille's stadium doesn't meet UEFA's standards.

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

CAPITALS (7 P.M. ON COMCAST) The Caps come back from Montreal and quickly turn things around with a home game the next day against the Sharks.

HOYASHOOPS (7 P.M. ON MASN) Georgetown has looked impressive recently, winning nine straight and ensuring themselves of a tournament spot. On Wednesday, they get a relatively easy contest at Cincinnati.

TERPS HOOPS (7 P.M. ON CH. 20) The Terps are also playing their best basketball of the year, winning three straight in the ACC for the first time all season. They play an important home game against a Florida State team that also desperately needs a win.

SOCER (2:30 P.M. ON ESPN2 AND 5 P.M. ON ESPN CLASSIC) FC Porto hosts Chelsea and Barcelona hosts Liverpool in Champions League play.

KRYSTYNA RUDZKI (AP)

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Sports



WRONG TURN: Two weeks after celebrating the Colts Super Bowl win at Disney World, RB Dominic Rhodes faces a drunken driving charge after state troopers arrested him Tuesday.

Tiger's Storybook Finish

At the pace he's going, Woods could match Nelson at the Masters

GOLF | Tiger Woods has never had any trouble counting on the golf course, though it's not too hard to add up a couple of nines filled with birdies and pars and come up with something in the 60s.

The math really gets fuzzy this week, though, when Woods tees it up in the Accenture Match Play Championship. In the Arizona desert, he'll try to win his eighth straight PGA Tour event, and move a step closer to a record once thought as insurmountable as Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak.

But wait. It gets even better.

Assuming he wins the Match Play — and he's won it twice — it's on to Florida where Woods is expected to play twice in tournaments he usually dominates. Wins there would get him to 10 straight, one short of the record set by the late Byron Nelson against war-depleted fields in 1945.

So where would a record-tying No. 11 come? How about at Augusta National in April?

On the 10th anniversary of his astonishing first win in the Masters. In his first Masters since his



THE RIGHT PITCH: Tiger Woods, right, practices chipping and pitching as part of his preparation for this weekend's Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona.

father died. They couldn't write a script like this in Hollywood. Way too unbelievable.

Then again, it's hard not to believe. Woods has already proved

he's the greatest golfer of his time, and just 11 years into his pro career he's beginning to make a case for himself as the greatest of all time.

TIM DAHLBERG (AP)

The Older the Better for Rodriguez

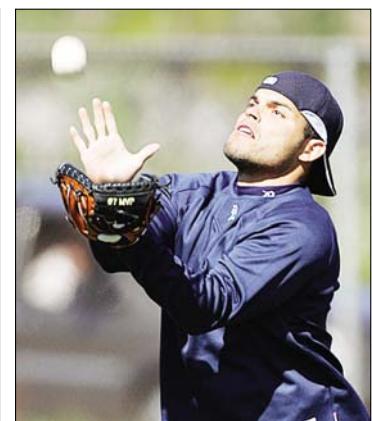
Tigers catcher sticks to an offseason workout that keeps him fresh

BASEBALL | Ivan Rodriguez worked out with the Detroit Tigers, took a shower and changed his clothes.

The 13-time All-Star catcher was probably going to need another shower. Maybe two.

Rodriguez — holding a pair of track spikes — planned to run 200-meter sprints at a track and lift weights for 90 minutes later in the day. His conditioning regime also includes riding a bicycle about 40 miles a few days a week.

"Every year that I play baseball, to be honest with you, I feel better



Tigers catcher Ivan Rodriguez hopes he can play until he's 40 years old.

When the Tigers gave Rodriguez a \$40 million, four-year deal in 2004, some thought they were foolish to give big bucks to an aging catcher. Nobody is saying that anymore.

Rodriguez — arguably the best all-around catcher ever — hit .300 last season, threw out a baseball-best 51 percent of runners attempting to steal and had a 99.8 fielding percentage that was tied for the best in the majors. And, he was an All-Star for a third straight season.

The 35-year-old Rodriguez wouldn't be surprised if he plays long enough to be a 40-year-old catcher.

"The way that I take care of myself and work out — no problem," he insisted. LARRY LAGE (AP)

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"Knowing what went on last year, for Dmitri to criticize the organization for lack of support I think is totally out of line." — **Tigers manager Jim Leyland**, responding to new Nats first baseman Dmitri Young's comments about being cut from the Tigers late last season.

Sports

Start of Training Brings Competition

This spring, Broadway is fighting for the 1B job with the Nationals

NATIONALS | The kids behind the chain-link fence squealed early Tuesday afternoon as the object of their affection approached. "He's right there! He's right there!" Ryan Zimmerman, reflective shades wrapped around his eyes and a cup of water in his hand, politely told a half-dozen pre-teens he

was still working out, that he'd sign some autographs when he was done. He grabbed his gear and jogged to another field.

Not 10 feet away, Larry Broadway — wearing shades that matched Zimmerman's — stepped aside as Zimmerman walked by, sipped from his own cup and grabbed his own equipment bag.

Next year, it could be Broadway in Zimmerman's spot, the young man who can do no wrong, the one being asked if he can repeat



Larry Broadway is hoping to take over for injured Nationals 1B Nick Johnson.

such a fine rookie season.

Or Broadway could be in some other camp trying for someone else's job, still clinging to the hope of making the big leagues. The next six weeks at Nationals' spring training will be filled with competitions, both significant and not, men fighting to begin careers and extend them.

Broadway will be in one of his own, trying to fend off veterans Travis Lee and Dmitri Young and replace the injured Nick Johnson as

the club's starting first baseman.

But he will be fighting another fight as well, one far more internal: Is he a prospect still on the rise or a career minor-leaguer who'll never pan out?

"It's not cut-and-dried," said Dana Brown, the Nationals' scouting director. "But the principle of 'now-or-never' is a reality. It works differently for different people, because a guy his age could maybe need a little more seasoning." **BARRY SVRLUGA** (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Ready or Not? Larry Broadway was once the Expos' No. 3 prospect. What happened? | **Today's Post, Sports**

A Long Way Back for Nats' Johnson

Star first basememan is unsure when he'll return to the lineup

NATIONALS | Nick Johnson's right hip hurts when he walks. Running? Forget that — the pain's much too severe.

So the Washington Nationals' cleanup hitter and first baseman quite simply has no idea when he'll be able to play baseball again, when he'll be fully recovered from the broken right leg that ended his career-best 2006 season.

He arrived at spring training Friday and was asked what he thinks the best-case scenario is for a return. Johnson paused, before offering a guess: "June?"

"But I won't know until I start hitting, running, getting on the field. It's hard to make a prediction now," he added. A few minutes later, he referred to the June estimate again: "That's in my head, but I just threw it out there. I don't know."

Indeed, no one knows when he'll start jogging, much less taking batting practice or fielding grounders. For now, Johnson is limited to rehabilitation work.

"People were being a little over-optimistic when they were talking about him being ready for spring training," manager Manny Acta said. "We're not going to jeopardize 2008 — and years beyond 2008 — just to get Nick Johnson here two or three weeks earlier."

The injury marked an end to



Nationals first baseman Nick Johnson was in the middle of a career season last year before he broke his right leg. Johnson will likely not be in the lineup on Opening Day.

what was a breakthrough season for Johnson, who set career highs with a .290 batting average, 46 doubles, 23 homers, 77 RBIs and 110 walks.

Johnson set a personal best in another category in 2006: 147 games played.

He made at least one trip to the disabled list in each of his five previous major league seasons with

the New York Yankees and Expos-Nationals. There was a long list of injuries: thumb, left wrist, right hand, back, broken cheekbone, heel.

Nothing as debilitating, though, as what he's facing now.

"He's still got a lot left to do," Kearns said, "but he's a lot better than the last time we all saw him."

HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

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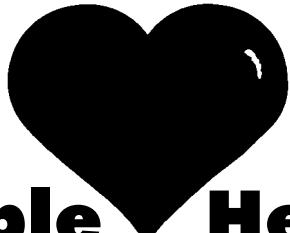
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Sports

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The career winning percentage of new Chargers coach Norv Turner. Just three coaches have ever received a head coaching job with a lower winning percentage.

Gators Pledge to Refocus

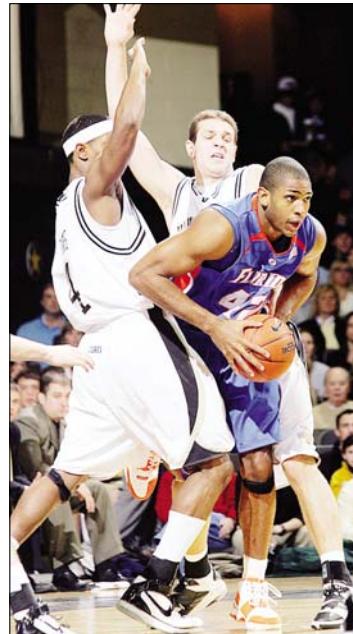
Coach says Florida's rare loss could help the team down the stretch

COLLEGE HOOPS | The Florida Gators handled their first loss in more than two months as expected: They vowed to learn from it, improve and not let it happen again.

They could find out whether losing helped Wednesday night against South Carolina.

"It was tough," center Al Horford said. "It puts that sour taste in your mouth. I don't like that taste. Hopefully we won't have to experience it again. It puts a lot of things in perspective. We can't take things for granted. We figured that out. We got to get back focused, get back to the things we were doing before. It was definitely an eye-opener for us."

The third-ranked Gators (24-3, 11-1 Southeastern Conference) had



Al Horford, right, and the Gators were smothered by Vanderbilt on Saturday.

won 17 in a row, tying the longest winning streak in school history, before falling 83-70 at Vander-

bilt on Saturday. Nearly everything Florida did right during the streak — playing stout defense, taking good shots and shooting a high percentage — went wrong against the Commodores.

Vandy got too many easy baskets inside, too many open looks outside and forced Florida into too many long-range shots. Even then, the Gators might have survived without a season-high 22 turnovers and so many missed 3-pointers.

"I think this is a good thing," coach Billy Donovan said. "One of the things you hear coaches complain about a lot is that sometimes players don't take losses as hard as you'd like to see them take them. I think our guys take losses very hard. I think our guys really want to win. They play the game the right way. Winning is important, the team is important to them. So yeah, we've got to be able move past and learn from what we did."

MARK LONG (AP)

SKI JUMPING | A JUMP WITH A VIEW



KOICHI KAMOSHIDA/GETTY IMAGES

NOT A BIRD OR A PLANE: Magnus Moan of Norway soars through the air during a Nordic Combined training session at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships Sapporo 2007 on Tuesday. Moan lifted off from the Okurayama Jumping Hill, which overlooks the city of Sapporo, Japan, three days before his ski-jumping competition is scheduled to begin.

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Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m.

Deliver Us From Evil (101 min.)

Friday, February 23, 7 p.m.

An Inconvenient Truth (100 min.)

Saturday, February 24, 7 p.m.

My Country, My Country (90 min.)

Sunday, February 25, 4 p.m.

Jesus Camp (84 min.)

Animated Short Film Nominees

Saturday, February 24, 3:30 p.m.

The Danish Poet

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Documentary Short Subject Nominees

Sunday, February 25, noon.

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Travel

Built to Thrill

New infrastructure in Spain brings wave of galleries, eateries

CULTURE | The Spanish government is pouring money into cutting-edge museums, performing-arts spaces, and convention centers. Not surprisingly, there has been a trickle-down effect, as the recent wave of infrastructure has inspired galleries, stores and restaurants to open near the new buildings. Industrial wastelands are being reinvented as vibrant, hip neighborhoods.

Right, you're thinking, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. Indeed, if there's one symbol of the country's changes, it's the Guggenheim, which opened in 1997. But Frank Gehry's jutting, curving, titanium-clad wonder was only part of a \$1.5 billion city-wide overhaul, which included a convention hall, British architect Norman Foster's "Blade Runner"-esque subway stations (nicknamed Fosteritos), and an airport designed by Spain's own Santiago Calatrava that looks like a cavernous dinosaur fossil with structural "ribs" made of steel.

Bilbao, however, is only one example of what's happening across the nation. Name your favorite city, and chances are a glittering architectural marvel is sprouting up between red-tile roofs.

Historical context only makes these changes more dramatic. In the space of 30 years, Spain has shifted from a dictatorship to a democracy, from economic stagnation to growth, from cultural isolation to a place on the world's main stage. From 1939 to 1975,



The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao is the best example of renaissance of art in Spain. In most major cities, new infrastructure is leading to an emphasis on culture.

**Name your
favorite city, and
chances are a
glittering archi-
tectural marvel
is sprouting up.**

Francisco Franco basically ran the country with an iron fist, keeping strict control of regional governments from his center of control, Madrid. The problem was that, like Italy, Spain is wildly diverse — as those who have tried to flex their high school Spanish in Barcelona can attest. A Catalan or Galician from the north eats different food and often speaks a different language from a Castilian from Madrid or a Canary Islander. Franco, in a

sense, forced Spain to unify. After his death, the country reorganized into a constitutional monarchy of 17 autonomous regions.

Ten years later, in the mid-1980s, the newly empowered community leaders of Galicia used their authority to make over the blighted city of Bilbao — luring in the Guggenheim with \$40 million in funds. The national government paid for a new airport and subway. Close to 6.3 million people have visited the Guggenheim since its opening, generating \$173 million in GDP in 2003 and morphing Bilbao from a faded shipping port to a must-see European attraction.

Nothing succeeds like success: Cooperation between national and regional governments became the model for Spain's future.

LEIGH NEWMAN (BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE)

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FROM BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE

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Is there any better place to celebrate the March holiday? This seven-night stay begins with a guided tour of Dublin, featuring stops

at Trinity College and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Other highlights on the vacation include a visit to an 18th-century estate in the middle of the country to learn about the famine that depopulated Ireland and a stop at Blarney Castle, where you will be invited to hang upside down and kiss the Blarney Stone to receive the gift of eloquence. Remember to pack an umbrella — March is a particular-

ly wet month. **WHEN:** March 10, from Boston and New York. **DETAILS:** Hotel taxes, five dinners and daily breakfast are included. Only one suitcase and one carry-on bag allowed. No children under 8. **CONTACT:** Sceptre Tours, 1-800-221-0924, sceptretours.com. (BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE)

FIND MORE DEALS & TRIP-PLANNING TIPS AT BUDGETTRAVELONLINE.COM

DID THE RIGHT THING: Spike Lee was named a winner of one of the 12 George Polk Awards for his New Orleans documentary "When the Levees Broke." The annual award is considered among the top prizes in U.S. journalism.



Entertainment

Wild, Wild Far East

Argh! Chinese pirates will be high-profile in the next 'Caribbean'

MATEYS | While Western pirates are a familiar feature of Hollywood movies, Disney is introducing a Chinese sea bandit in "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

Capt. Sao Feng — played by Chow Yun-fat — is a key figure in saving Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) from the world of the dead in the third installment of the megahit movie series, due out May 25.

Sao Feng is fictional, of course, but what were real Chinese pirates like? They wore bright silk costumes and ate the hearts of their enemies to strike fear in their subjects, historians say. In some parts of China, they overwhelmed the navy and served as a de facto government, regulating trade and collecting taxes.

Much of the heritage of Chinese pirates traces back to Hong Kong. Lantau island, where modern jetliners take off today at Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport, was the site of a major battle between pirates and the imperial Chinese navy in 1809.

The outlying island of Cheung Chau has an idyllic fishing village — and a famous legend, the great



YO, HO, HO & A BOTTLE OF RICE WINE: Capt. Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) meets his match in Capt. Sao Feng (Chow Yun-fat).

pirate Zhang Baozai. While Zhang is believed to have operated in Hong Kong waters, no evidence suggests he was ever based in Cheung Chau. But that hasn't stopped the legend from growing.

Zhang's legend is enhanced by his colorful personal life. As a youngster, he was adopted by the pirate Zheng Yi and his wife, Zheng Yisao, and became his stepfather's boy lover. After Zheng Yi's death, Zhang married his stepmother and

had a child with her.

Zhang was said to have been tall and charismatic, according to research by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Zhang was known to wear flamboyant purple or red silk gowns. Rank-and-file pirates dressed in duller colors faded by sunlight and washing, and stained with tar, blood and waterproofing tung oil, according to Davies.

The average Chinese pirate ship was smaller and not as well armed

as its Western counterparts, historians say. The junks carried fewer cannons than in the West because less-sophisticated Chinese ship building technology limited the vessels' ability to handle ammunition recoil. But battleships from the imperial government were even smaller and more poorly armed.

Zhang's fleet crushed the Chinese navy, more than halving its fleet from 165 ships to 72 in two battles in 1808 and 1809. MIN LEE (AP)



A-HA: "Hotel Dusk" mixes sketched characters set against 3-D backdrops.

Check Into 'Hotel Dusk'

VIDEO GAME | "Hotel Dusk: Room 215" is an unusual new title that's perfectly suited to the quirky, touch-screen Nintendo DS handheld.

More of a digital choose-your-own-adventure book than video game, "Hotel Dusk" can be frustratingly slow and obtuse. Yet patient, persistent players will find a well-written story with multiple endings that's quite good by lackluster video game standards. It all adds up to a truly unique film-noir adventure.

You play as ill-tempered ex-New York cop Kyle Hyde. It's 1976 and Hyde is now a traveling salesman who's searching for a long-lost partner. He checks himself into Hotel Dusk one afternoon and the dingy Los Angeles building is filled with secrets and a cast of weird characters you'll meet.

The gameplay is largely composed of the conversations you'll have with tenants and workers at Hotel Dusk. After reading through countless lines of slow-moving text

dialogue, I was yearning for a better system to interact with these generally long-winded people. But what you'll be reading is at least sharp and full of nuance.

The art style is another standout feature. The distinctive, hand-sketched characters blend well with smooth 3-D graphics of the hotel's interiors.

"Hotel Dusk" has its share of flaws, but you have to admire a video game this original.

MATT SLAGLE (AP)

Today's Top Stops

FOR MORE TOP STOPS AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES, VISIT READEXPRESS.COM



COURTESY KEOKI KAHUMOKU

SLACK KEY GUITAR SHOWCASE

Hawaiian Punch

1 The four guitarists playing Wednesday and Thursday at Wolf Trap are a noteworthy crew. Keoki Kahumoku and Sonny Lim are the progeny of famous Hawaiian musical families. Jeff Peterson is a distinguished guitarist in multiple genres and his pop was a Hawaiian cowboy, or Paniolo. Finally, there's Charles Michael Brotman, a sort of slack-key Berry Gordy.

→ *Wolf Trap*, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna; 8 p.m., \$22; (703) 255-1868.

LAURA SESSIONS STEPP

Get the Hook

2 Washington Post journalist Laura Sessions Stepp's "Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love, and Lose at Both" is a compilation of interviews and a look at the broader cultural shift that's happening in sexual politics.

→ *Politics & Prose*, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW; 7 p.m., free; 202-364-1919. (Van Ness-UDC)

OREGON

Back on the Trail

3 World-jazz pioneer Oregon has been blazing trails since 1970. The lineup of Ralph Towner, Paul McCandless, Glen Moore and Mark Walker has been together for the past 11 years, and Oregon's mix of improvisation, classical music and Indian and Far East folk still sounds fresh today.

→ *Blues Alley*, 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 8 p.m. & 10 p.m., \$30; 202-337-4141. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment



PIANO WOMAN: On May 1, Tori Amos is set to release her first new album in two years. "American Doll Posse," the follow-up to 2005's "The Beekeeper," was recorded in Cornwell, England. Amos kicks off a world tour May 28 in Rome.

Fueled by Funk Rock

Gym Class Heroes bring punk attitudes to groovy hip-hop jams

MUSIC | Gym Class Heroes straddle the line between hip-hop and emo. Officially signed to Decaydance — Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz's imprint on the Fueled by Ramen label — the band got its start in 1997 when frontman Travis McCoy and drummer Matt McGinley met in — yep — high school gym class. After recruiting bassist Eric Roberts and guitarist Disashi Lumumba-Kasongo in 2001, Gym Class Heroes put out the self-released "For the Kids" and started a non-stop touring schedule that led to

the band's 2003 CD, "The Papercut Chronicles." That album caught the attention of Wentz, who signed the group in 2004.

Gym Class Heroes' independent spirit and dedication to touring fit the Decaydance/Fueled by Ramen ethos, even if the band's music sounds unlike anything else on those punk/emo labels. As heard on the 2006 CD "As Cruel As School Children," Gym Class Heroes mix rap, rock, funk and R&B, using live instrumentation. That makes the group something like a punk-rock-fueled version of the Roots.

"I look out into the crowd and see a middle-aged woman, a young indie kid, some hip-hop kids and then some straight gangsters," said



COURTESY GYM CLASS HEROES

RAP ROCKERS: Gym Class Heroes take the do-it-yourself approach of punk and apply it to a funky fresh blend of hip-hop and rock — with plenty of cheeky lyrics.

frontman McCoy of the group's ability to appeal to all sorts of people. "I don't think there are as many groups that can say they see what we see. So, in that respect I think we're definitely testing new ground." (Gym Class Heroes will get a chance to test new ground when they play a sold-out 9:30 Club on Wednesday.)

One of the most appealing aspects of Gym Class Heroes is McCoy's mastery of "Lyrical Sarcasm 101" and his ability to switch seamlessly from simple to abstract topics. "What you hear initially is not what you hear when you're at home listening [to the record] again," said McCoy of his lyrics. "Those are the type of songs that, whether people like them or not, are going to jump back one day and bite you on the — you know the expression."

DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with RX Bandits, P.O.S., K-Os, 6 p.m., sold out; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)

Jackman Flicks Hit On DVD



REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

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BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (PG) DIG ★	(120 300 530) 810 1030
TYLER PERRY'S DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(120 215 430) 810 1030
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HANNIBAL RISING (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(125 500) 800 1050
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) DIG	(200 455) 735 1010
THE MESSENGERS (PG-13) DIG	(120 300 520) 815 1040
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NORBIR (PG-13) DIG	(1245 400) 800 1000
HANNIBAL RISING (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1245 400) 730 1015
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) DIG	(1230 330) 700 930
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(330)
SMOKIN' ACES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(120 300 520) 815 1040
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(1245)
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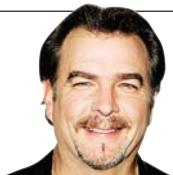
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Television



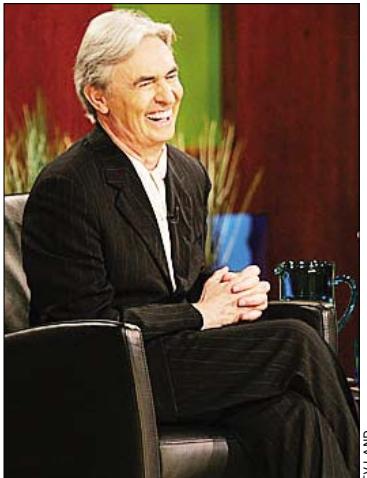
COUNTRY COMIC: Blue Collar Comedy Tour's Bill Engvall is the latest comedian to get his own sitcom. "The Bill Engvall Show" will premiere in summer 2007 on TBS and, natch, it will be a "domestic comedy." Nancy Travis will star as Engvall's surely put-upon wife.

Terrific New Talk

TV Land's gab-fest is low-key, smart, witty, inviting and welcome

CHIT CHAT | Jerry Seinfeld appears on the second-season premiere of "Sit Down Comedy With David Steinberg" (10 p.m., TV Land). Steinberg is no stranger to the talk-show circuit. A celebrated comedian's comedian, he appeared on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show" more than any other comic, with the exception of Bob Hope.

A prolific director of TV commercials and sitcoms, Steinberg has earned Emmy Awards and Direc-



HAVE A SEAT: David Steinberg's new talk show invites comfort and comedy.

tors Guild Awards for his work on "Seinfeld," "Mad About You," "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and others.

Rare among talk-show hosts, Steinberg is a great listener. And rarer still for a comic, he doesn't infuse his talk show with prepackaged "bits." As a result, he puts his guests and audience at ease, and something known as "conversation" usually follows.

As Seinfeld observes, comedy is fun and easy only if you're good at it. If you are not, stand-up can be the most unendurable profession in the world. He also remarks that the best thing about being a comedian is the opportunity to sit around and talk with other comedians. That seems to be the whole point of Steinberg's talk show.

KEVIN McDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ON TV TONIGHT

JARHEADS OPEN UP

The 90-minute film **THE MARINES** (9 p.m., PBS) features interviews with more than two dozen current members of the Corps about its history and visits three Marine facilities to explore boot camp and the rigorous training used to instill a warrior ethos into a loyal, skilled breed of combatants.



HOORAH! "The Marines" explores the history of the armed forces' Devil Dogs

MORE TRAUMA TV

MORE TRAGEDY TV
DECODING DISASTER (10 p.m., Discovery Times) looks at catastrophes and provides meticulous explanations of how they occurred and how they could have been averted. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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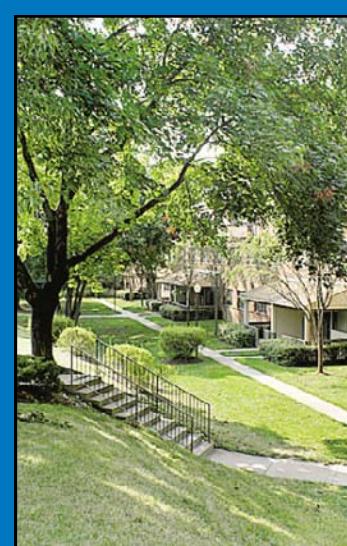


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Storage

Over in Hawaii, even unwanted belongings dwell in high style

Even storing your stuff in Hawaii can be done in an upscale style, as the newest self-storage facilities resemble small resorts and hotels on some of the islands' priciest real estate.

With 24-hour access, air conditioned hallways and use of fancy business centers and WiFi Internet, storage companies are catering to customers as the industry that is booming nationwide becomes more competitive.

A StorSecure outlet, designed to blend in with the lush green mountains, sits near the eastern shores of Oahu next to multimillion-dollar homes and expensive boats. Hawaii Self Storage recently spent \$250,000 to install a clock tower and Hawaiian mosaics to overlook the island's busiest highway. And Public Storage has constructed a flashy facility on a high-rent downtown corner with space for retail shops to operate on the ground floor.

"We really wanted to become

part of the neighborhood," said Annette Pang, vice president of marketing for StorSecure.

Self-storage is a booming \$21 billion business nationwide. The growth is easy to see on the space-scarce islands of Hawaii. With eight recently built facilities and at least another dozen planned, the rapid growth of these facilities in Hawaii has outpaced the national growth.

Once identified with ugly warehouse-like eyesores, storage companies are now designed to meet

community architectural standards as they pop up in prime residential areas and in the midst of busy retail complexes, said Mike Scanlon, president of the Self Storage Association.

Hawaii is a great area for self-storage businesses, with nearly no residential basements, expensive homes and a plethora of new compact condos. Plus, many residents have kayaks, canoes, surfboards and other bulky equipment.

In Hawaii Kai, a seaside district in eastern Oahu, a new tan and green StorSecure Self-Storage facility blends in with its surroundings.

People often confuse the new

INSIDE

Environmentally friendly styles rule London runways | 35

Blog Log: Thoughts on the bald Britney | 36

Brit Breaks: Spears gets herself to rehab | 38



MARCO GARCIA/AP

STORE-FRONT: Is it an upscale mall? A fancy multiplex? Hawaii Self Storage looks far nicer than the average rent-a-warehouse.

Paradise Junk

four-story, 120,000-square-foot facility with a hotel. Owners spent nearly half a year working with neighbors who had feared the building would downgrade the neighborhood, Pang said.

"We blend in, so we might lose some sales, but we feel our sacrifice is outweighed by our satisfaction," Pang said.

Hawaii Self Storage built the giant clock tower at its newest \$13.7 million, four-story, 171,000-square-foot site across the street from an

imposing six-story Public Storage business — one of 2,100 locations owned by the Glendale, Calif., company.

The newest facilities have introduced 24-hour access, dehumidification technology to prevent mold and mildew and advanced security systems. Many operations also hold incoming shipments for customers.

Ecolab Pest Elimination is one of several companies that headquartered out of storage facilities.

New shipments from the mainland are stored until its service specialists pick up the light fixtures and non-lethal bait traps, said district manager Dave Lau. The rented space allows the company to work without the need for an office as Ecolab employees mostly operate from home and communicate via handheld devices.

"We get much more than just storage," Lau said. "I'm here every week and they know us."

BRIAN CHARLTON (AP)

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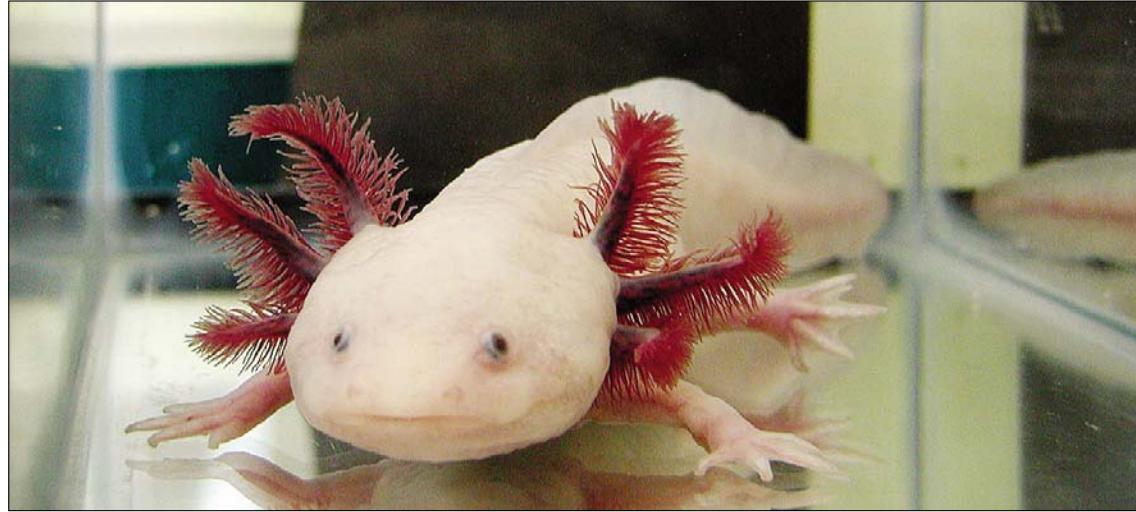


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Look Out



ARMED AND READY: Scientists at the University of California, Irvine, tricked this salamander's body into growing an extra arm.

New Regeneration

Science

Researchers hope to grow new limbs using clues from fingers

Researchers are trying to regrow fingers — someday, even limbs — with tricks that sound like magic spells from a Harry Potter novel.

There's the guy who sliced off a fingertip but grew it back, after he treated the wound with an extract of pig bladder. And the scientists who grow extra arms on salamanders. And the laboratory mice with the eerie ability to heal themselves.

This summer, scientists are planning to see whether the powdered pig extract can help injured soldiers regrow parts of their fingers. And a large federally funded project is trying to unlock the secrets of how

some animals regrow body parts, with hopes of applying the lessons to humans.

The implications for regrowing fingers go beyond the cosmetic. People who are missing all or most of their fingers often can't pick things up, brush their teeth or fasten a button. Even a small stub could make a huge difference in their lives.

Consider Lee Spievack, a hobby-store salesman in Cincinnati. He'd been helping a customer with an

engine on a model airplane. He knew the motor was risky because it required somebody to turn the prop backwards. He'd misjudged the distance to the spinning plastic prop. It sliced off his fingertip.

What was gone, it appeared, was gone forever. If Spievack, now 68, had been a toddler, things might have been different. Up to about age 2, people can consistently regrow fingertips, says Dr. Stephen Badylak, a regeneration expert at the University of Pittsburgh.

Spievack, however, did have a major advantage — a brother, Alan, a former Harvard surgeon who'd founded a company called ACell Inc., which makes an extract of pig bladder for promoting healing and tissue regeneration.

Lee Spievack started applying it every two days. Within four weeks, his finger had regained its original length, he says, and in four months "it looked like my normal finger."

Spievack said it's a little hard, as if calloused, and there's a slight scar on the end. The nail continues to grow at twice the speed of his other nails.

The basics of how it works is pretty straightforward. The powder is mostly collagen, without any pig cells, said Badylak, who's a scientific adviser to ACell. It forms microscopic scaffolding for incoming human cells to occupy, and it emits chemi-

cal signals to encourage those cells to regenerate tissue.

Some animals, of course, can regenerate tissue without help from any powder. Chop off a salamander's arm, and it will grow back in weeks.

"Up to about age 2, people can consistently regrow fingertips."

Rather than making a scar to heal quickly, as people do, the salamander forms a mound of cells called a blastema. This is a regeneration factory: If you cut off a salamander hand and transplant the resulting blastema to the creature's back, it will grow out a hand there.

David Gardiner at the University of California, Irvine, is studying the secrets of the salamander by growing extra arms on the creatures.

How? Make a shallow wound on the upper arm. Reroute a nerve that will pump out chemical signals promoting the creation of blastema cells. Insert a tiny piece of skin from the other side of limb you just wounded, to provide a blueprint.

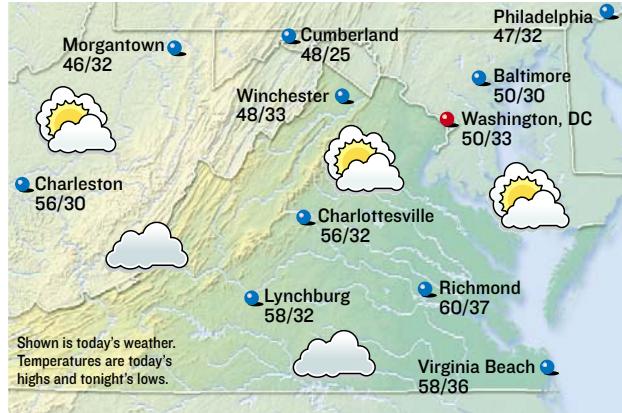
It sounds like "you put it in a cauldron under a full moon," Gardiner observed. MALCOLM RITTER (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Decreasingly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy

50° **33°** **52° / 30°** **49° / 27°** **47° / 32°** **48° / 40°**

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Temperature

High	46°
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Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.21"
Normal month to date	1.81"
Year to date	3.67"
Last year to date	5.46"
Normal year to date	5.02"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

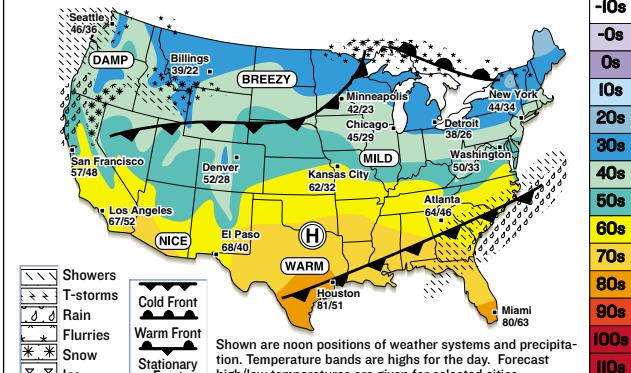
D.C. Metro: Today, decreasingly cloudy. High 50. Wind north 6-12 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 33. Wind south 3-6 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:52 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:52 p.m.
Moonrise today	8:53 a.m.
Moonset today	11:03 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Feb 24	Mar 3	Mar 11	Mar 18

National Weather for Wednesday, February 21



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	64/46/c	71/39/s	Amsterdam	50/42/r	50/43/r
Boston	42/30/pc	38/22/c	Athens	58/46/sh	61/46/c
Chicago	45/29/pc	42/22/pc	Berlin	45/38/c	45/32/c
Dallas	76/47/s	77/54/s	Buenos Aires	86/68/pc	86/68/s
Denver	52/28/s	56/28/pc	Calgary	37/13/pc	33/16/pc
Honolulu	79/68/pc	79/67/sh	Dublin	48/45/r	52/41/sh
Los Angeles	67/52/pc	60/50/r	Geneva	54/36/pc	56/35/c
Miami	80/63/s	82/62/pc	Moscow	2/-12/sf	3/-5/sn
New York City	44/34/pc	45/25/c	Rome	62/48/pc	61/46/t
Orlando	79/57/c	80/52/pc	Sydney	78/71/pc	78/70/p
Seattle	46/36/c	44/35/sh	Tokyo	54/41/pc	50/48/p

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Styles

LOOK
out

Easy. Being Green

Environmentally friendly fashion walks in London

Forget black: Green was the color to watch at London Fashion Week Thursday, as environment consciousness merged with style.

A group of 20 designers participated in the environmental exhibition — called “Estethica” — which includes fair-trade clothing, as well as garments made from organic and recycled materials. The chief executive of the British Fashion Council, which oversees the week of events, said the goal was to promote style that is also environmentally friendly.

“You don’t get into London Fashion Week just for being ‘eco,’ ” Hilary Riva said. “What we’re looking for is high-level design incorporating ‘eco.’ So, they’ve got double the criteria to meet; it’s so much harder for them.”

London-based designer Gary Harvey, who is exhibiting, only uses material

A creative Gary Harvey gown made from 42 pairs of jeans takes recycling to a stylish new level.

LONDON
Runway
REPORT



he finds in places like secondhand clothing stores to avoid waste.

“You get people who come in and buy clothing,” he said, “wearing it one or two times then discarding it because it’s suddenly deemed aesthetically unimportant and out of date when there’s years of life left in the garment.”

Each dress takes between one and two weeks to complete, and some of the sewing is done by hand — Harvey said he broke three sewing machines while working on the garments.

Estethica is making its second appearance at London Fashion Week after its debut last September. The exhibit has increased by 30 percent this season, with 20 designers exhibiting and one designer on the catwalk. Riva said the exhibit started as part of a larger movement in London toward an eco-friendly lifestyle.

“It’s a real movement that’s only going to go one way,” Riva said. “It’s now very firmly part of the scene. Everyone I know is now working out their carbon footprint. I mean, who would have thought of that — even 12 months ago?”

The exhibit includes designers from around the world displaying ready-to-wear garments and accessories. The booths include unique items like handbags woven out of recycled candy wrappers, but there are also more conventional looks such as skirts and cardigans made from organic cotton.

Riva said she sees eco-fashion as a “real London thing,” and it’s also one way that she’s working to expand the city’s Fashion Week.

“London really has established itself on its credentials of young talent and creativity,” Riva said. “You know, street really is the background of London Fashion Week compared with the big brand centers of Milan and Paris and latterly New York.

Everyone knows what to expect from those cities, and I guess in London, you expect the unexpected.”

COURTNEY FRENCH
(AP)

Beauty



Yes, We're Sulking

After the rampant popularity of the previous shade in **LANCÔME'S** Pout-à-Porter lipstick series (the Benaz red sold out nearly instantaneously), the next color, Proenza Pink, will hit shelves March 1. But you need to get on a waiting list: Go to lancome-usa.com or call the Lancome counter at your nearest Neiman Marcus. The hue, a milky pink seen on Proenza Schouler's runway, is so coveted even we couldn't get a sample.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Men



Posh It's Not

David Beckham is dominating Express Beauty Central. One squirt of his new fragrance, **INSTINCT** (\$32 for 1 oz., Sears), and he's all over. So one appropriate adjective for the scent would be “strong.” But that doesn’t necessarily mean “bad;” it’s a men’s cologne that, well, smells like a guy. A young, unsophisticated guy. The materials claim a blend of various scents, but all this nose can pick up is, frankly, “junior prom date.” Luckily, this writer’s junior prom date smelled pretty good, but this Instinct is clearly for the MySpace crowd. K.P.K.

Lookout Online

from readexpress.com

D.C.'s Risky Intersections

DANGER ZONE | On Tuesday, Express profiled what's wrong with a number of intersections in the District that could be dangerous for pedestrians. We listed just a few crossroads, and readers wrote in with a few more suggestions.

One reader named Rick works near the Navy Yard station on the Green Line, where nearby construction has created a mess for pedestrians: "Recently, one of the two Metro entrances/exits was closed for construction and will not reopen until April 2008. All Metro riders to Navy Yard now must use the entrance/exit at New Jersey Avenue."

"So, what's the danger to pedestrians? Revitalization in this part of D.C. is ongoing and there's con-

struction adjacent to the New Jersey Avenue exit. The sidewalk is closed in front of the construction site. The many Metro riders that need to walk along M Street west to office buildings adjacent to the closed Metro station entrance have a few options:

1) Cross busy M Street (all four lanes) to the sidewalk on the other side of the street. The crosswalk does very little in the way of helping pedestrians get across the street. Stop by and watch the game of chicken played out every rush hour.

2) Cross halfway across M Street and walk along the narrow center divider.

3) Walk in the traffic lane along the chain-link fencing in front of



WAITING TIME: Metro has new ways to show when the next train will arrive.

the construction site.

4) Go out of your way and walk around the block behind of the construction site on the less busy road."

Another reader, Jennifer Clark in Arlington, had an overall com-

plaint related to winter-weather cleanup delays:

"Any post-snowstorm intersection is dangerous for pedestrians. Seemingly, 'clearing the streets' is defined as 'opening the way for vehicles.' Often, snow and ice are piled high in the gutters and curb cuts, slowing a pedestrian's trip across the street and requiring attention that should be focused instead on watching for right-turning and left-turning pedestrian-oblivious drivers." MICHAEL GRASS (EXPRESS)

Coming Up Today

While Washington's Metrorail system has had train arrival time information in stations for the past few years, New York City's subway is just now getting its first such system — complete with automated voice announcements — on one of its lines. We'll take a look at some new communications tools, including Metro's new display screens that have been deployed outside select stations.

Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should Verizon Center upgrades get public funds?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Is the U.S. military doing enough for wounded troops?

NO **YES**

68% 32%

As of 5:15 p.m. Tuesday. Not a scientific poll.

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP



"I know all you compassionate souls will be hoping she stays in rehab ... but I am ... heartless ... and ... want to see more of the train wreck."

A [DLISTED.COM](#) COMMENTER IS ENTERTAINED BY BRITNEY SPEARS' LATEST MELTDOWN.

Statistics 101

"Surely we have hit rock bottom when lottery officials say they cannot calculate the odds that anyone who remembers the first probability course they ever took can compute in less time than it takes to say 'virtually incalculable.'"

[115.ORG](#) ON A MINNESOTA LOTTERY OFFICIAL SAYING IT'S DIFFICULT TO CALCULATE THE ODDS OF WINNING \$25,000 TWICE IN TWO DAYS, WHICH HAPPENED LAST WEEK.

New Friends on Metro

"Usually, when someone is doing calisthenics on the Metro platform while talking to themselves and then does a beeline for you and tries to start a conversation, it's probably a good thing to avoid them."

[SDOC.BLOGSPOT.COM](#)



A Deeper Problem

"The mess at the [Veterans Affairs Administration] and in the military health care system is systemic and complicated. Political grandstanding on both sides of the political aisle has impeded reforms for years."

[MICHELLEMALKIN.COM](#), THE OUTSPOKEN CONSERVATIVE BLOGGER, REACTS TO THE WASHINGTON POST'S INVESTIGATION OF SUBSTANDARD CARE AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER.



Sacrifices for Lent

"I have decided to take a bit more and this one is a toughie. No cussing in the car, or rather no road rageous cussing. I am, however, allowing myself to say 'POOP.'"

[DUDETTE7.BLOGSPOT.COM](#) HAD A TOUGH TIME DECIDING WHAT TO GIVE UP FOR LENT. TODAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY.

Live Online

Life at Work

Washington Post columnist **AMY JOYCE** was online Tuesday to offer advice about dating on the job, handling all-day interviews and other social and professional situations.

Any tips for surviving a marathon job interview? I have one on Friday that starts at 9:30 a.m. and the last appointment is at 2:15 p.m. I'll be meeting with about seven different people. How about this (don't laugh): Be prepared. Ha. (I laughed.) Bring a bunch of resumes, just in case any of the many need to see one again. Wear something uber-professional, but comfortable. Bring little things you can use to perk yourself up — water, handi-wipes. (Love that clammy feel at the end of the marathon interview sessions, don't you?). And, of course, go in with confidence. And ask for their cards along the way. That way, you can send "thank yous" to each of them.

I just got engaged and I'm not sure how to announce it at work (if at all).

I don't get the ring until Thursday, so I've been stalling until then. However, my boss knows because I asked for vacation days due to it. Should I just let word spread? Or let people notice my ring and ask?

Not sure why you feel you have to "announce" it at work. Does it affect anyone? Your job? Their jobs? If not, then just tell them as you would anyone else.

I work at a nonprofit. My supervisor had been romantically involved with a co-worker who reported to her for some years. In fact, they even lived together. Their relationship seems to have cooled, but isn't this a circumstance that could cause our employer problems?

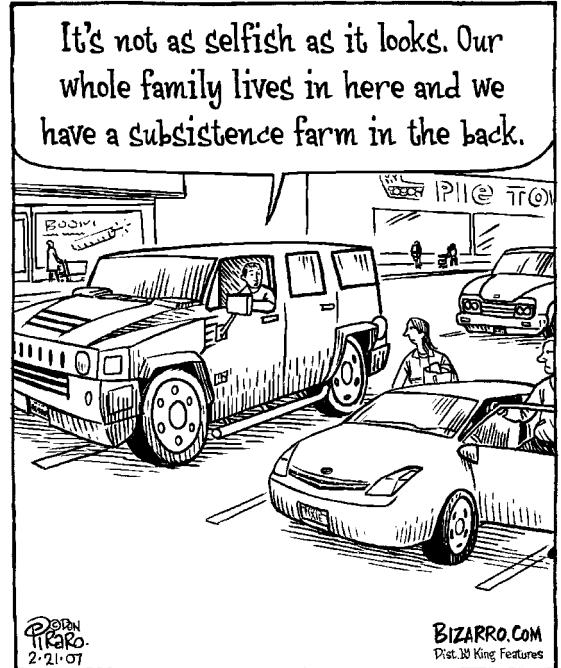
It should have been a problem when they started getting together, if one was supervising the other. That's just wrong. Any supervisor who wants to have a relationship with an employee who reports to them should immediately remove himself/herself from the situation. Anyway, it could cause problems, particularly if one or both of them are immature at work. If they can draw a line between work and the relationship — or lack thereof — then it might be fine.

DO

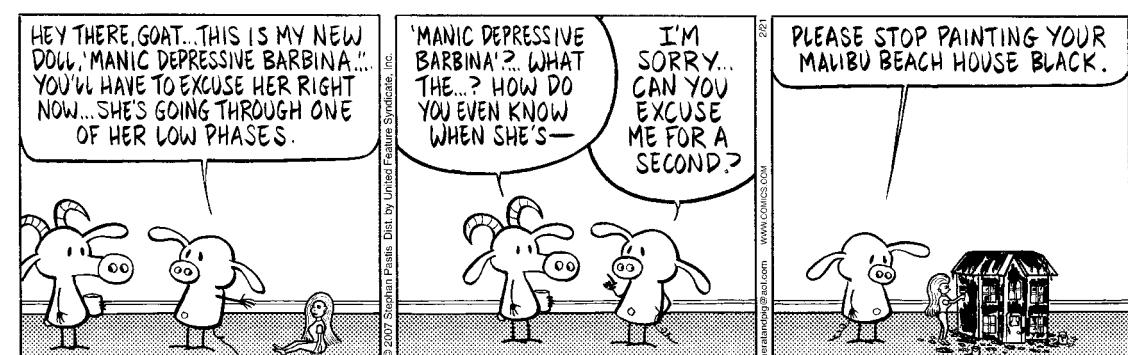
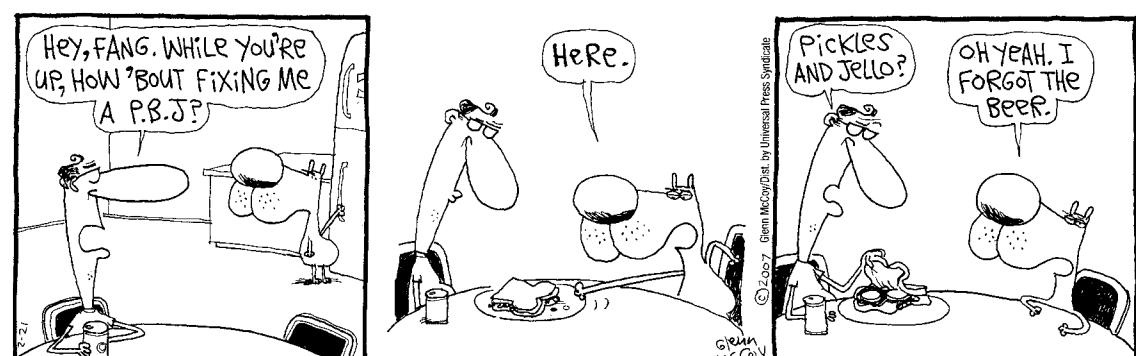
GET THE SAME ARCH SUPPORT AS SUFJAN STEVENS. Well, actually, we don't know if his shoes are featured on Popstarfeet.co.uk, but plenty of other indie musicians are. If you want to ensure your footwear is in line with the underground rock scene, check out snapshots of the acts' shoes. Includes commentary!

TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: Washington Post food critic Tom Sietsema dishes on the D.C. area's restaurant scene at 11 a.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro**Cornered** | Mike Baldwin

"And they lived happily ever after. Or so it would seem – after they were forced to sign a nondisclosure agreement."

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan**Pearls Before Swine** | Stephan Pastis**The Duplex** | Glenn McCoy

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may find yourself in transit on more than one occasion, perhaps catching up with a recent effort that may have gotten away from you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You were best to spend your time concentrating on difficult decisions at work than on situations on the home front. Don't split your focus.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll be intrigued by someone who offers you more in the way of challenge than support. What is it you find so attractive?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take care you don't let someone close to you get on your nerves; seek support rather than affirmation and you'll get on well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You can score a major victory with a display of such virtuosity that others may be hard-pressed to believe what you have accomplished.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may have to iso-

late yourself for a time as you struggle with a problem that is yours alone to solve. You can mix and mingle in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may not be getting the direct, one-on-one support you need. It's up to you to ask for what you need in no uncertain terms.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your first instincts will be to hide your feelings and give people nothing but what they seem to want. Later, you'll be set free.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A mix of styles may provide you with the greatest enjoyment. You needn't stick to one thing that may interest you at the expense of others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) See if you can't go back to the way you were doing things in the recent past. Greater enjoyment may result, and you may minimize dangers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a good day to share with a close friend just what you most want, what you most need, and what you most fear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Go along for the ride. Avoid giving instructions to others until you are sure you know the way yourself.



Sarah Hughes, right, skated from fourth to first place to win the gold today in 2002.

Today in History

1965 Former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X is shot to death at age 39.

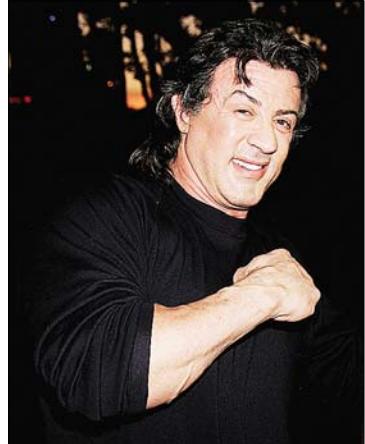
President Nixon begins his historic visit to China.

1972 U.S. figure skater Sarah Hughes wins the gold medal at the Salt Lake City Olympics.

Correction:

In last Thursday's Weekend Pass, we neglected to credit the person who photographed the Dissident Display co-founders. Her name is Marcia Mascarenhas.

LOOK out People



PATRICK RIVIERE/GATYTIMAGES

Sly makes the signal for "Me Sly!"

BANNED SUBSTANCES

Those Oversized Shampoo Bottles Get You Every Time

Sydney, Australia, customs officials searched **SYLVESTER STALLONE**'s hotel room and private jet three days after seizing banned substances from the actor's entourage, newspapers reported. "There was a minor misunderstanding," said publicist Paul Bloch. "They were doing their job. He didn't know the rules in Australia." Bloch said he didn't know what authorities were looking for or what was confiscated. (AP)

PUNISHMENT

'Naked Gun' Residuals Small Comfort When Son Is Dead

A Santa Monica judge ordered that **O.J. SIMPSON**'s income from past movies, television and commercials go directly to the family of murder victim Ron Goldman. A civil court jury held Simpson liable for the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Goldman, and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million. Most of that remains unpaid. (AP)



DIANE BONDAREFF/AP

AFTERMATH

'I Hurt Inside, Y'all'

BRITNEY SPEARS entered rehab Tuesday after a bizarre weekend that included shaving her head and getting a new tattoo. Manager Larry Rudolph told People magazine that Spears had voluntarily checked herself into an undisclosed treatment facility. "We ask that the media respect her privacy as well as those of her family and friends at this time," he said. Meanwhile, Esther's Haircutting Studio, where Spears shaved her head, set up a Web site to auction off her hair. (AP)

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TRUTHS

Take-Home Message: Even Rich People Have Crap-tastic Wills

Anna Nicole Smith wanted to be buried next to her son in the Bahamas, where she lived, her companion testified Tuesday in the latest round of legal battles surrounding the model's death. Smith's boyfriend, **HOWARD K. STERN**, and her estranged mother, Virgie Arthur, were in a Florida court arguing about



what to do with her remains, while another hearing in California dealt with questions about the paternity of the former centerfold's infant daughter. Stern testified Smith was adamant about burying son Daniel Smith in the Bahamas, where he died just days after Smith's daughter was born there in September. "Anna and Daniel were inseparable. Daniel was, without question, the most important person in Anna's life," Stern said. (AP)

FADS

Britney Sets off Tsunami Of Celeb Head-Shaving

Will **DONALD TRUMP** put his hair where his mouth is? Trump and World Wrestling Entertainment owner Vince McMahon will pick a wrestler to represent them in the ring April 1 at Wrestlemania 23 at Detroit's Ford Field, Detroit news-

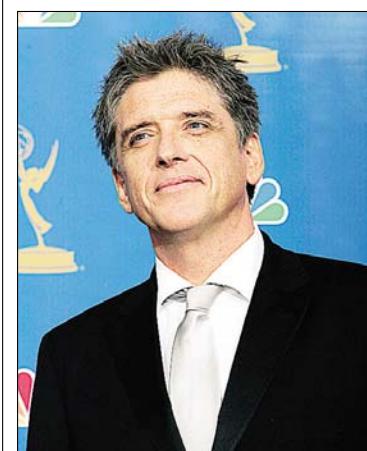


papers reported. If their pick is beaten in the "Battle of the Billionaires," the loser will get his head shaved after the match. "If Trump loses, he shaves his head," confirmed a WWF spokesman. (AP)

SADNESS

Britney's Bold Hair Choice Drains World of Laughter

CRAIG FERGUSON decided not to poke fun at Britney Spears for at least one night. The host of "The Late Late Show" told viewers Monday that, after seeing photos of Spears' shaved head, he reconsidered making jokes at the expense of the "vulnerable." "For me, comedy should have a certain amount of joy in it," Ferguson said. "It should be about attacking the powerful — the politicians, the Trumps, the blowhards — going after them. We shouldn't be attacking the vulnerable." (AP)



REED SAXON/AP

In the wee hours, hardened talk-show hosts gather to pray and cry for Britney.

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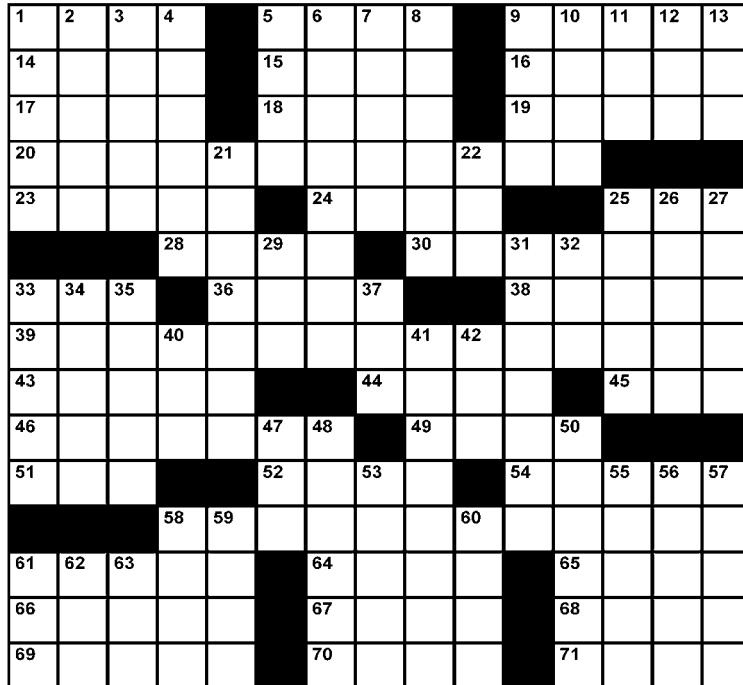
LOOK out

To a T

ACROSS
 1 Ballet move with bended knees
 5 Expensive car trips?
 9 Where it all begins
 14 "Five Women" author Jaffe
 15 Smell ___ (suspect something)
 16 In the beaver state?
 17 Redundant partner of "done with"
 18 It's better than never?
 19 Strong adhesive
 20 Grammarian's concern, perhaps
 23 Displayed sudden interest, in a way
 24 Capital near Lillehammer
 25 Special gift
 28 Mythomaniac
 30 Better
 33 Grp. that whistled "Dixie"?
 36 Shearing sound
 38 It may have a cross to bear
 39 Constitutional guarantee
 43 Imp's opposite
 44 Verbal attack
 45 Suffix with "computer"
 46 Old British gold coins worth 21 shillings
 49 Indochinese republic
 51 Moscow-to-Baghdad dir.
 52 Legendary first

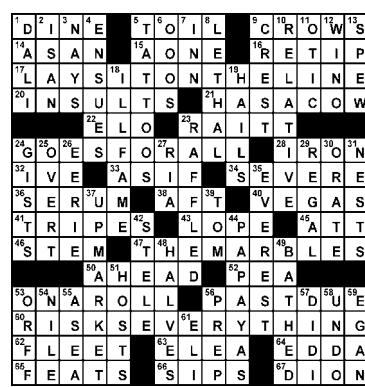
DOWN
 1 Actors handle them
 2 "I ___ Parade"
 3 Quiescent
 4 A load of gossip
 5 It's softer than gypsum
 6 "Messiah," for one
 7 Charlie of the Rolling Stones
 8 Addison's writing partner
 9 Visualizes
 10 Runner's destination
 11 "... and seven years ___"
 12 T. follower
 13 Determine judicially
 21 New Testament letter
 22 Palindromic prefix

name in sitcoms
 54 Small cuts
 58 If you make this, there can be no possible change
 61 Express verbally
 64 Optimistic, as an outlook
 65 Emotional request
 66 Dough
 67 Canal of song
 68 Right-angle bends
 69 Art of verse
 70 D'Urbervilles miss
 71 "Portnoy's Complaint" author



EDITED BY TIMOTHY PARKER

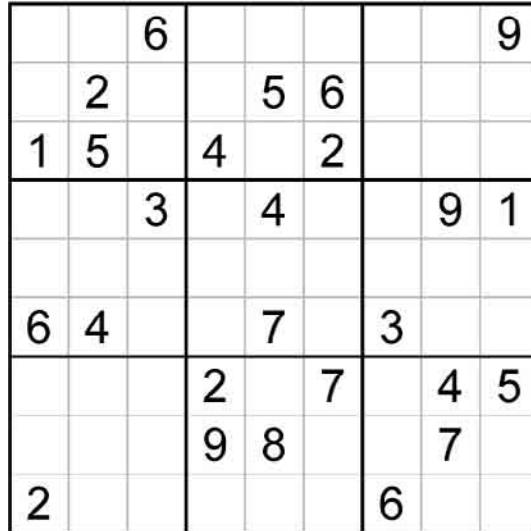
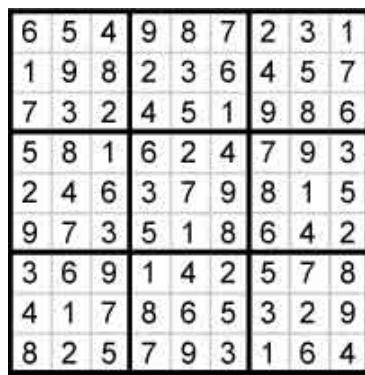
25 ___ nous (confidentially)
 47 Nabokov heroine
 48 Whispered item
 50 Smile derisively
 53 Salt away
 55 Jacqueline Du Pre's instrument
 56 Kowtowed, e.g.
 57 Hidden supply
 58 Serpentine swimmers
 59 Doctored photo?
 60 Motion-carrying votes
 61 You could be safe with him
 62 Overly
 63 Darned spot?

Yesterday's Solution**Sudoku**

Degree of Difficulty: MEDIUM

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

 **Need more Sudoku?**
 Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

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Getting Ahead

GUIDE TO CONTINUING ED AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT

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A publication of The Washington Post



Cases to Canvas

ART CLASSES TURN A LAWYER INTO A PAINTER

Shahrzad Heyat Jalinous wrote many thousands of words during and after law school. Now she practices art, not law. So does she find that a picture is worth a thousand words?

More than that, it seems. "I always saw art as something I needed to do," said Jalinous, 36. "I just didn't see it was what I was meant to do."

You might say artists are born, not made. In a way, that's true: As early as kindergarten, Jalinous said, "it was very important to me that my drawings be the best they could be.

In my head I was criticizing other children's stick figures: 'People don't look like that!'

But training is necessary, too. During undergrad work at Georgetown University, she started taking classes like life-drawing, oil painting and acrylic painting at the Corcoran College of Art + Design — "a wonderful art-school environment," she said — and loved them.

CONTINUED ON E2

In her D.C. studio, Shahrzad Heyat Jalinous works in oils and acrylics.



Birth of a Career

■ Love babies? Learn to deliver bundles of joy as a nurse-midwife. | E7



Peak Performer

■ JanSport's co-founder on how outdoor adventure can help you at work. | E4

► BY THE NUMBERS

72

THE PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE CRUSHES ON A CO-WORKER, SAID A SURVEY BY JOB-SEARCH SITE SNAGAJOB.COM. (AP)

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Getting Ahead

Continued from page E1

"Somewhere, you need to get the skills," Jalinous said, "Though not necessarily a degree."

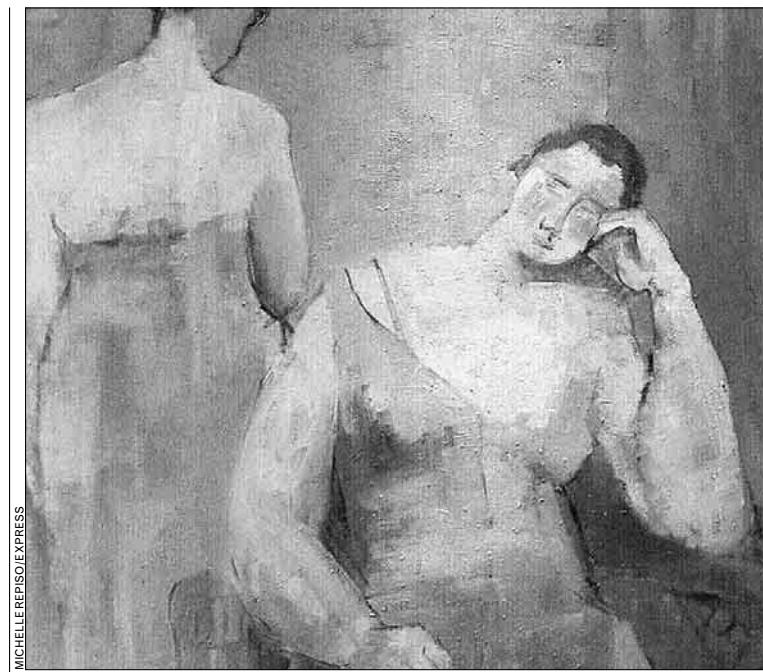
After completing her bachelor's degree, the international-relations major went straight to Georgetown Law Center. She did summer work at the law firm Stewart and Stewart and at the U.S. Treasury Department, and passed the bar. She started work in litigation and commercial real estate transactions for a solo practitioner. "It was very challenging, in a good way," she

I would wake up with my teeth clenched because it was so stressful. Litigation has so many little details.

SHAHRZAD HEYAT JALINOUS, ARTIST

said, "solving problems and critical thinking."

After four years of casework, though, "I would wake up with my teeth clenched because it was so stressful. Litigation has so many little details, and they change by



Muted colors and moody figures star in Shahrzad Jalinous' painting "Repose 1."

jurisdiction. I would check something 10 times just to be sure I had it right."

During law school, she'd stopped the art lessons. Afterward, she began again on Saturdays with "Life Drawing" and has kept going, taking perhaps 30 Corcoran

classes in all.

"Three hours with a live model — you can't really do that at home," she explained. "You have to have the background of the old masters to be able to draw the human figure in an expressive way. In a decade or two, maybe I'll feel I don't need

Change
Artists

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Getting Ahead



Shahrzad Jalinous, in her D.C. studio, had a brush with a law career before discovering that her true passion was painting.

to take [the class] anymore."

Her Northwest Washington house had a detached garage, and she eyed it as a potential studio. "We started fixing it up," she said. Finally, "when that place was finished, I realized, 'Stop! This is what I want to be doing as a job for the rest of my life.'" She gave notice at work and set up her canvases. "I'd started entering juried competitions, so it wasn't so far-fetched," she said. "I haven't looked back."

Her husband, also a lawyer, was supportive. "He tells me, 'I can't wait until you sell your paintings for \$100,000 so I can quit my job too.'"

Her works haven't gotten to that price yet, but the Iranian-

born Jalinous had two month-long exhibitions at D.C.'s now-shuttered Spectrum Gallery, and both shows sold out. One buyer commissioned a large painting. "It's very gratifying to have perfect strangers love what you do," Jalinous said.

"She's first-rate; her work has a personal poetry to it," said former Spectrum director John Blee, now director of Dupont Circle's Studio Gallery. "She's proved very successful in making the switch."

"I've never regretted law school; it gives you unique training to think," she said. "You can deal with people on a business level in a more confident way." Law and art have some things in common, too. When crafting a response to a

GO BACK TO ART CLASS

The Corcoran College of Art + Design (500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1801 and 1801 35th St. NW; 202-298-2541; corcoran.edu) offers continuing education classes and 14 credit certificates. Classes are held both at the downtown school and at satellite venues in McLean (703-790-1953) and Glen Echo (301-634-2222). The next open house is March 1, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. E.R.

motion, "you have to look at ways you can do what the other side says you can't." Plus, "I stand in front of my canvas and take in all the problems — then stop thinking and just do." ELLEN RYAN

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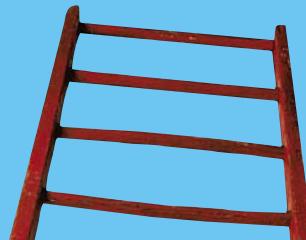
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Getting Ahead

Mountain of Success

A sports gear pioneer finds career wisdom in the great outdoors

If you carried your books in a backpack to school, or maybe stashed your PowerBars in a knapsack on a hike, chances are good that you know JanSport. Forty years ago, the backpack giant started as a little company in an empty room of a transmission repair shop in Seattle. Times have changed since those early days, and JanSport now sells millions of dollars worth of outdoor gear and accessories each year.

Company co-founder Skip Yowell is an avid climber and outdoorsman. He recently penned his memoirs, "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other



JanSport co-founder Skip Yowell (top right), at a catalog cover shoot, said having fun on the job is crucial to career success.

Mountains" (\$15, Naked Ink), a tale of his adventures climbing mountains and building his sporting-goods empire. Lynn Thorne talked to him about how fresh-air exploits can improve your office life.

You say, "Be thankful when things don't work out as you originally planned." But Americans are trained to schedule things. How can you find the silver lining when a big plan doesn't come to fruition?

We are a society that likes instant gratification. Just like in climbing, you sometimes take inherent risks. To be innovative and progressive, you've got to think out of the box a little bit.

A good example of a JanSport product that was a home run was the dome tent — we really strived to do something different there. We had a lot that didn't hit the mark, and the real test is the consumer.

The book talks a lot about taking risks versus playing it safe. You took many risks in the early years at JanSport and had so many suc-

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Getting Ahead

cesses. How do you decide what's just too big a risk?

You really need to be in tune with all aspects of the business. Be engaged. A big part of my personal success is being able to listen to people and find out what the consumers want.

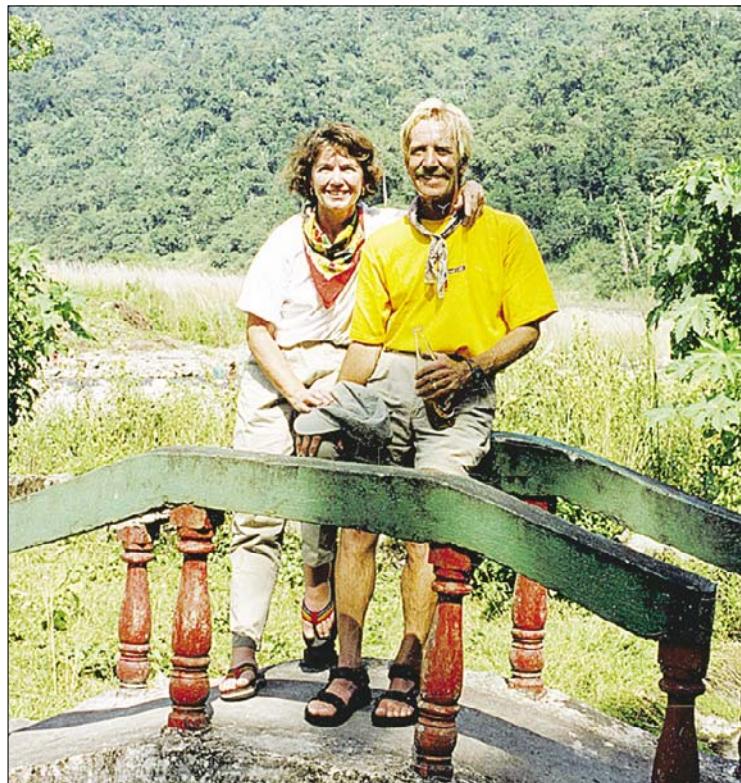
You said you relied on resourcefulness, perseverance and courage to get you up Mount Rainier; incidentally, three things you say are also necessary to climb the corporate ladder. If you had to choose one, which is most important?

I'd say courage to take the extra step and set yourself apart, to go beyond. Men and women are at their best when they reach for something beyond their grasp.

When you're starting out and have so many new and fresh ideas, it's so easy to get disheartened when people tell you something won't work. How do you keep the faith?

There is a little bit of luck being in the right place at the right time. We had a real passion for what we were doing and the products we produced.

Sometimes people would throw me out and say, "We're not interested," but I didn't let it get me



No troubled waters: Skip and his wife, Winnie, take a breather on a bridge in Bhutan.

PENNY LEGATE

down. I felt so strongly. Live your dreams and enjoy what you're doing. Have passion, or it won't be successful.

You place a lot of emphasis on having fun while you're working. Why do you think that's so crucial?

That comes a lot from my childhood. In business, you'll be successful if you can develop a good team — you'll get there better and faster than trying to do it solo. For that team to gel, having fun needs to be

Continued on page E6

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0209

Getting Ahead

Continued from page E5

a part of the basis. People have to enjoy coming to work and do what they do. It's a lot easier.

You also talk a lot in the book about treating people with respect and courtesy. But it's easy to forget to take the time to be nice in today's frazzled world. Which is more important — being kind and considerate to someone, or focusing on finishing that huge project?

I relate that to climbing and expeditions ... you learn patience. I sat waiting at the Tibetan airport for a plane for four days. Today, people get bent out of shape if the plane's an hour late. You learn patience.

If you approach your work and business with a Zen attitude you can always have time [to be

nice]. If you're organized with a vision and put thought into what you're doing, it should come very naturally.

Most people love to be in the lime-light when they're trying to impress a boss or advance in their careers. But you advise people to take themselves out of the picture and let others get the glory. Why?

People at all different levels of the business contribute to its success. The people not at the top are important, too. Letting them share in success is very important.

You say there are two choices in business: innovation or imitation, and you embrace the former. Yet many people do well by imitating their competition. What would you say to them?



GEORGE DUNN

Yowell said resourcefulness and perseverance rule on the slopes—and in the cubicle.

That's not a terrible strategy, and a lot of companies do that. It leaves you a little vulnerable. No matter how well you've done, you have to keep doing better. There's always someone who wants a piece of your business. At JanSport, we need to stay one step ahead because you can lose a lot of loyalty if you're not the innovator and leader.

Is there anything that you're still itching to accomplish?

I'm not good at anything, but I do a lot of things OK. I enjoy photography and gardening. I never envision myself retiring. I've got to be doing something. Traveling is big [one] for me. I am on the road now 120 days a year, but maybe I'd travel a little more for enjoyment. LYNN THORNE

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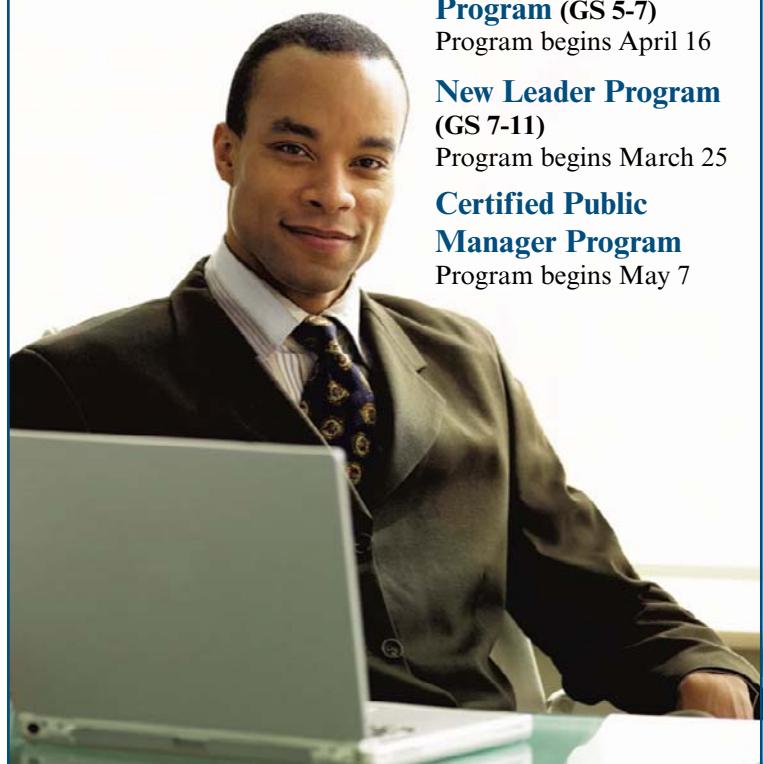
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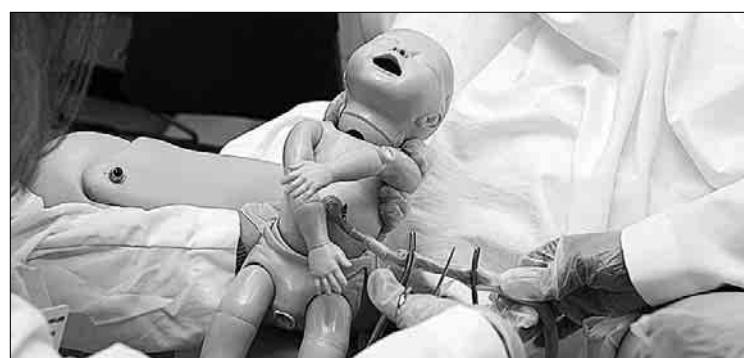
Midwives attend to the smallest details in life's biggest event

Midwife Chris Bontrager of Silver Spring will never forget her first day on the job. "I was starting my training at a hospital in Fredericksburg, and a woman was having her ninth baby. She was nine centimeters dilated when she arrived and she had the baby 30 minutes later. I

thought, 'Birth can be pretty simple sometimes.' I didn't even really have a chance to get nervous."

Now 33 years old, Bontrager was a student at the time, and the experience set the stage for her future career as a certified nurse midwife.

Why midwives? For women with low-risk, uncomplicated pregnancies, these childbirth assistants are an excellent alternative to the more traditional obstetrician/



MICHAEL REPO/EXPRESS

Student midwives take turns cutting the umbilical cord of a newborn mannequin.

gynecologist. The word "mid-wife" means "with woman" in Old English, and the role is exactly what you'd expect.

"We work with families to help them have the kind of birth they want, so they have more control over the experience," said Marsha Jackson, co-director of Birthcare and Women's Health in Alexandria. "We want it to be an empowering experience and one that solidifies the family." The Old Town center specializes in births outside of a hospital, whether in the client's home or at the center's birthing facility.

Jackson has been a nurse-midwife for nearly 26 years. She said the hours are terrible but she loves

Continued on page E8

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Getting Ahead

Continued from page E7
her career.

"You can be called at any time. You get that phone call in the middle of the night and you think, 'Oh, no,'" she said. "You get dressed and on your way. But once you get connected to that birth, being up all night isn't so horrible."

Midwives have different titles depending on their level of education. Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) must have received a nursing degree prior to becoming a midwife. Certified midwives (CMs) don't have previous medical training, but must study and pass

certification exams to work in the field, and are currently licensed only in New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Midwives cannot perform Caesarian sections, but they can do nearly everything else an obstetrician would do, including fetal monitoring, and administering drugs, epidurals and episiotomies when needed. They also offer a degree of emotional comfort many doctors can't, because they try to stay with the mother as much as possible during labor.

Midwives practice in a variety of settings. According to Rebecca Jacob of the American College of

Nurse-Midwives, the oldest U.S. women's health care organization, roughly 65 percent of its midwife members are employed by hospitals and doctor's offices. Smaller numbers work in birth centers, in their own practices, or at universities, nonprofits, military or federally funded health centers. And they don't just deliver babies.

"In addition to attending over 10 percent of the vaginal births in the United States, certified nurse-midwives provide primary health care for women across the life span, from adolescence through menopause," Jacob said.

“I thought, ‘Birth can be pretty simple sometimes.’ I didn’t even really have a chance to get nervous.”

CHRIS BONTRAGER, MIDWIFE

Several schools offer distance learning opportunities, but few institutions in the Washington area provide certified nurse-mid-

wife education. The University of Maryland offers a full-time program at its Baltimore campus. To graduate, students must get 55 credit hours, which takes roughly 21 months. Wannabe baby deliverers can also attend part time.

Georgetown University also offers a degree in nurse-midwifery. It's a 45-hour program and students can elect full- or part-time status. It includes four semesters spent in a clinical setting to give students hands-on experience in hospitals, birth centers, public health clinics and private practices.

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fast-track program for students who don't have a bachelor's degree in nursing. Often called a "direct entry" or "graduate entry program," they are typically three years and begin with an accelerated nursing program followed by the midwifery program. Once they graduate, students are eligible to take the American Midwifery Certification Board's national certification exam.

Classes cover topics such as gynecology and prenatal care, the roles and responsibilities of midwives and complex midwifery. At the University of Maryland, students practice delivering babies with a birth simulator, a mechanized, full-sized model of a woman that can imitate vaginal births. The machine can also imitate complications like breech birth or shoulder dystocia, in which the baby's shoulder is lodged behind the pubic bone. It offers students valuable experience before working on live patients.

While there are more than 400 midwives practicing in the D.C. metro area, the University of Maryland's midwifery program director Carol Snapp said the school graduates only four to eight students each year.

"The number of students is fairly



Wannabe midwives use plastic pelvic models to learn where babies come from.

stable," she said. "The difference I've seen is an increase in employment opportunities over the last couple of years. Now the opportunities

seem to be increasing for nurse midwives."

The statistics prove her right.

Continued on page E10

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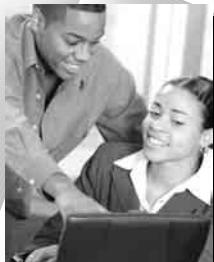


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Getting Ahead



Midwifery students at the University of Maryland School of Nursing practice delivering fake infants with a mechanical mannequin that simulates the birth process.

Continued from page E9

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 5,500 practicing CNMs in 1995, and the number is projected to rise in the next few years. Why? The costs of going with an ob/gyn continue to increase, and the expenses for a certified nurse-midwife are lower by comparison, often because midwives are more successful at birthing without the use of costly drugs and other interventions. Also, birth centers and home births cost less than paying hospital fees (although the fees of midwifery are covered by insurance in most cases). And while those figures may be chalked up to the fact that midwives usually only take on low-risk pregnancies, midwifery has a record of successful births. This, in turn, encourages more mothers-to-be to seek the method.

Thirty-year-old Melody Mast, a Harrisonburg, Va., resident, is a midwifery student at a Kentucky school. She's doing her clinical work at the Maternity Center in Bethesda. Mast said the difference between her time working in a hospital and a birth center is considerable.

"At the birthing center, it was like, 'This is what it's supposed to be.' It was so natural, with low lights. The mom could do what her body needed to do. It just felt right."

Mast said she was inspired to study midwifery after seeing how a home birth affected a close friend.

"She'd had a hard life, but working with a midwife was healing for her," said Mast. "Birth is hard, but this was empowering."

On Feb. 2, 2007, Mast helped deliver Rachel Deitrich's

son, Andrew. The 30-year-old Gaithersburg resident said she was pleased with her experience.

"They treated me more like a person than a patient," Deitrich said. "I was a much more active person in the delivery process. They talked me through things, they responded to what I said and how I felt. That wouldn't have happened in another location with an obstetrician."

Snapp said a degree in nursing makes a good foundation for midwifery. You'll also find it's a good foundation for a pay raise. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports that, on average, the income of certified nurse-midwives will surpass the pay of a typical registered nurse. For example, in 2000, while an RN earned approximately \$44,840 a year, certified nurse-midwives earned an average of \$70,100. The extra schooling and training that makes independent practice possible for CNMs is responsible for the higher salary.

But if you're considering a career in midwifery, don't be held back by a lack of a nursing degree.

"The issue is that there are misconceptions," Snapp said. "People think they need to have labor and delivery experience before going into nurse-midwifery. It's very individual, the amount of experience people feel they need."

She also said people who are committed to women's health and the health care of both mothers and babies make excellent midwives.

"We work nights and weekends. Babies come at all hours. It's very gratifying, but it's very tiring work. It takes a special person to be dedicated to this career." LYNN THORNE

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Getting Ahead



If you're weighing two or more job offers, ask for more details and more time before closing any deals. Most employers appreciate honesty in situations like that.

Popularity Conquest

Have more than one job offer? Here's how to deal with a deluge

So many jobs, so little time.

Having multiple job offers is a great problem to have, but it can still be stressful.

A participant in my online chat learned just how complicated it can be when the opportunities pour in. "I applied for a job a couple of years ago, got it and then turned it down for another job I also was offered.

"Now I'm looking to move on, and the hiring manager (I still keep in touch with her) for the job I turned down has contacted me about a position opening in their office," the chatster wrote.

The problem? "I'm also in the running for another job at a completely different company that is more interesting to me. I'm running out of reasons and ways to put off the hiring manager I know so I can hold out for this other job I may or may not get. I feel so guilty!"

Continued on page E12

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Priscilla Guthrie, director of the Information Technology and Systems Division at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) will discuss the dangers of identity theft and provide prevention tips. She will also discuss present-day IT myths.

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The event will conclude with a brief discussion about Marymount's degree and certificate programs in Information Systems and Computer Science.

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Getting Ahead

Continued from page E11

He or she shouldn't feel guilty, but it's wise to proceed with caution.

"There is definitely a right way to do it and a wrong way," said Brad Karsh, president of JobBound and author of "Confessions of a Recruiting Director."

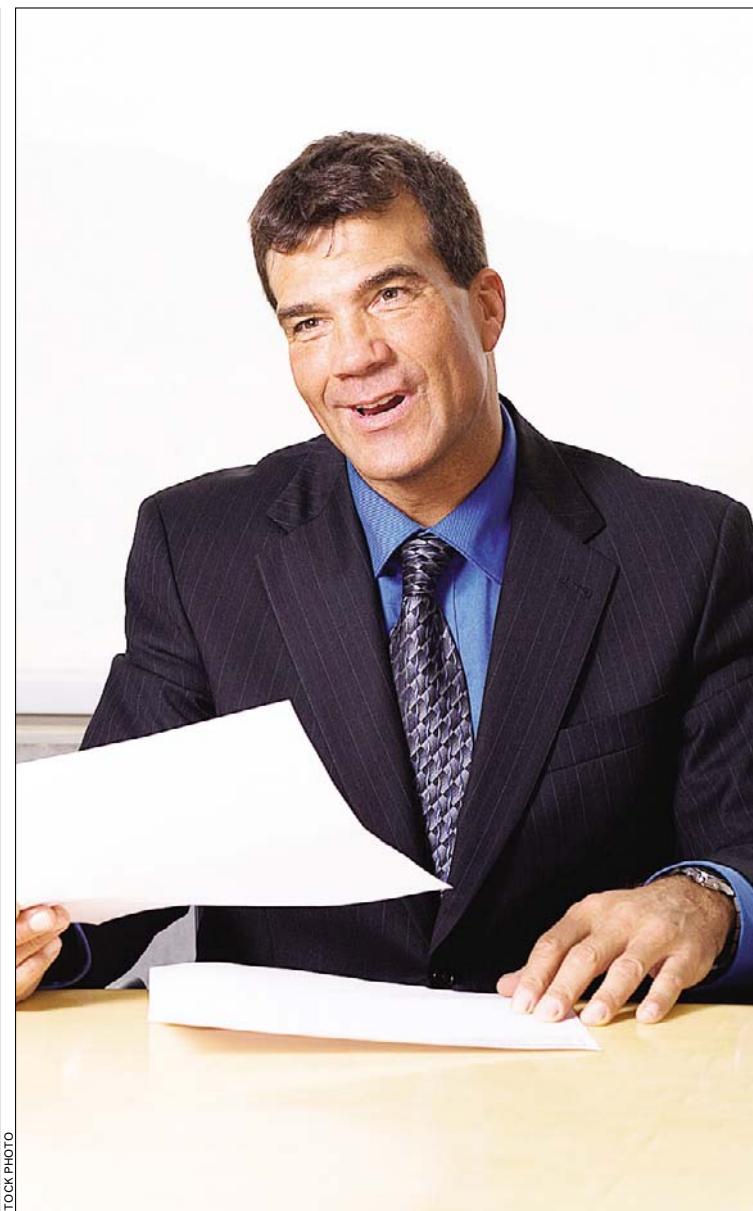
Here are a few tips for negotiating multiple offers without losing your mind or your reputation:

→ **PRESS FOR MORE DETAILS.** Maybe the key to a decision lies in acquiring more information, such as details about the employer's culture or benefits. Salary isn't always the most important factor. What is important to you in your next job? Once you have a firm offer, ask human resources for details about health care and perks. If your concerns are fuzzier and relate to your long-term prospects at the company, ask for another meeting with your prospective boss.

→ **PUT IT ON PAPER.** Make a pros and cons list for each job. If your list gets unwieldy, consider setting up a spreadsheet. Writing it all down can make the comparison — and perhaps the decision — much easier.

→ **DON'T ARTIFICIALLY PLAY EMPLOYERS AGAINST EACH OTHER.** Of course, you can negotiate. Just be straightforward. If you really want to work for one company but its salary falls short of the other offers, say so. Tell your top choice that if the better salary can be matched, you will take the job. Make it clear that you're not trying to put the company in a bidding war, Karsh said. If you really wouldn't take a job, don't try to use it as leverage. Lots of employers will call your bluff, offering you a "good luck!" rather than a counteroffer. If you're entertaining offers strictly for leverage, you're asking for trouble. "This isn't an eBay auction," Karsh said.

→ **DON'T IGNORE PEOPLE.** If you haven't made a decision, say so. Ignoring a hiring manager's calls is just rude. "Once you accept an offer, the first calls you should make are to those other companies," Karsh said. "Even before Mom or Dad." I know, it's not fair that you suddenly have to respond instantly to the same employers who might have been stringing you along for weeks or



STOCK PHOTO

PAPER TRIAL: When pondering an offer letter from a company (or two), write down a list of pros and cons about the job before deciding whether to take it.

even months, but that's just how the game works.

→ **ASK FOR MORE TIME.** Few employers expect you to accept an offer on the spot. Most hiring managers are fine with a request for a week to think, Karsh said. And college students usually have more leeway in making up their minds about jobs before graduation. It is also reasonable to insist that offers come in writing, which may buy you another day or two.

→ **DON'T OVERREACH.** Deferring a decision for more than a week will probably irritate people. After all, the job of hiring managers is to fill positions. Your dillydallying is keeping them from doing so efficiently. Even if you don't care about wasting the employer's time, think about the other job seekers who also are wait-

ing to see whether they make the cut. If the issue is that you're waiting on another offer, you can call up the slower company and ask to accelerate the interview and decision process. If its interest in you is strong enough, it often will.

→ **DON'T BACK OUT.** Accepting an offer and then renegeing is the "unpardonable sin" with recruiters, Karsh said. It greatly inconveniences the employer, who has made plans based on your decision. The company has already turned down other applicants and will have to start all over again in the interview and hiring process. He still remembers a woman who did this to him years ago. Hiring managers have really long memories for such things. (Seriously. "Until the day I die" were Karsh's exact words.)

MARY ELLEN SLAYTER (WASHINGTON POST)

Getting Ahead

Career Clued In

Job-hunt mistakes, from long resumes to expecting big bucks

People believe some weird things.

Like telepathy, astrology and ear candling. That it takes seven years for your body to digest chewing gum. Or that the devil can steal your soul when you sneeze.

They also believe some strange things about job hunting. Here are some of the most common — and most damaging — job-seeking myths that young workers fall for:

→ **LONG RÉSUMÉS ARE IMPRESSIVE.** No.

In fact, they are ridiculous for someone younger than 30. Excessively long résumés are consistently listed as a pet peeve in surveys of hiring managers, and yet people keep submitting them. Hiring managers barely have time to scan most of the résumés that come their way, much less read them line by line. Even if you get Margaret Atwood to ghost-write the thing for you, recruiters aren't going to make it to the second page. Find a way to edit those internships, extracurricular activities and classes into a clean, readable one-page document.

→ **THE INTERNET IS THE BEST PLACE TO LOOK FOR JOBS.** Sure, if your idea of "looking" for work is reading ads for jobs that you probably won't get. Online listings are just a tiny fraction of the jobs out there. Other, often more fruitful sources for leads include professional associations, specialized job fairs, your professors and career counselors, and places where you have been an intern.

→ **ENTRY-LEVEL SALARIES WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PAY BACK STUDENT LOANS.**

After all, the lenders would not have let you borrow all that money if they weren't certain you would be able to pay it back with your post-graduation paychecks, right? Afraid not. Student loans are an exception to the general lending principles that limit people to borrowing according to their earnings. The gap between how much college students expect



Keep your resume short, or risk losing the attention of the person doing the hiring.

to make when they graduate versus their likely earnings, as well as the difference between how much they think they will owe when they're done and what they really wind up owing, continues to be frightening.

→ **AN MBA ALWAYS BRINGS BIG BUCKS AND PROMOTIONS.** Of course, education isn't usually a bad thing. But before you put the time and money into getting a graduate degree in business, have a specific goal in mind for life post-MBA, and make sure that particular credential is really necessary to get you there. In particular, run the numbers and see if the expected boost in pay is worth it. Look at your particular situation, not just averages.

→ **THERE'S NO POINT IN APPLYING FOR JOBS IN THE SUMMER.** Or at Christmas. Or at whatever time you imagine hiring managers get to slack off. Filling professional jobs isn't like selling houses. The market isn't seasonal. People quit and get promoted year round. When they do, they have to be replaced — even when recruiters would rather relax by the pool. So find another excuse for your own procrastination.

→ **IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR BOSS, YOU SHOULD QUIT.** I used to believe this myself. After all, life is short, right? Sure it is, but the tenure of really bad

bosses is often even shorter. People move on. Sometimes you even get promoted to someone's job when he or she leaves. Even if they stay, all hope isn't lost. If you really like other aspects of a job, make the effort to learn to work with your obnoxious boss. Every job will require you to work with people whose personalities or work habits don't suit you. The earlier in your career you learn to work around them, the better off you will be.

→ **IT'S ILLEGAL FOR AN EMPLOYER TO ...** Honestly, you can insert just about anything here and you'd be wrong. U.S. employers have a lot of leeway in hiring, firing and promoting people, as long as they aren't discriminating against specifically protected classes of people, such as for race, gender, religion or age (this applies to people 40 and older, not teenagers or 20-something college grads). Mere "favoritism," while demoralizing, is not illegal. Neither is a boss being an equal-opportunity jerk. Likewise, no laws in this country require employers to provide health insurance, vacation or sick leave, paid parental leave or raises. Some union contracts provide these protections, but even those are rare.

Not as rare as a four-leaf clover, of course. But for those who have one, they could very well prove a more reliable source of good luck.

MARY ELLEN SLAYTER (WASHINGTON POST)

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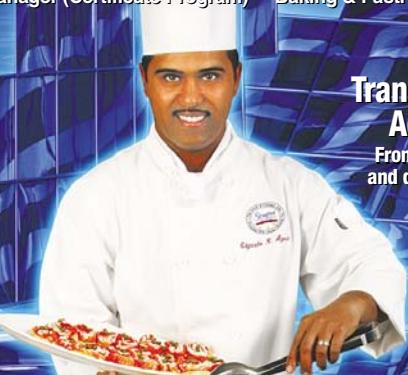
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Getting Ahead



LIVE ONLINE

Life at Work

AMY JOYCE's column appears Sundays in The Washington Post. She chats every Tuesday at 11 a.m. on washingtonpost.com/liveonline

As a budget analyst for the federal government, I work in a fairly conservative career field — and I uphold a pretty conservative and professional appearance at work. My question: I would like to get my nose pierced. Nothing obnoxious, just a teeny, tiny diamond stud. The only thing holding me back is what this might do for my future marketability. In the next year or so, I plan to begin looking for a supervisory position and I'm not sure whether people would take one look at me and say, "Not a chance." What do you think?

For me, a teeny, tiny stud is just fine. I'm a little biased. I think done right, it's a very attractive look. It's also a cultural norm for some, and so many people are used to seeing the pierced noses. If you want to, I say go for it. You dress professionally, I assume act professionally, and if it's very small, some might not even notice. You might consider not wearing it to an interview. But my feeling is it's your life, and if you want it, get it. Just make sure you know how to wear it (or not).

I am a unemployed Capitol Hill staffer and have been out of work for eight months and really need to get ANY job to pay the mortgage, etc. Where would you suggest I look — temp agencies? Retail? I need something to also help me feel like my master's degree is not going completely to waste.

What do you want to do? Where are you looking? If you're looking on the Hill, keep at it. They will still be staffing up now that the offices are settling in and figuring out what other positions need to be filled. Check out temp and placement firms in the area.

There are some that are specific to Hill and political/lobbying jobs, like PoliTemps. You worked on the Hill. You must have a bunch of contacts in both former co-workers and bosses. Even if you've lost touch, it's time to contact them again to ask for help. Get out and network. There are always events going on in our



Should you wear your nose ring to a job interview? Probably not. But sporting shnoz bling is probably OK at work, as long as the rest of your attire is conservative.

area. Get to it. Tell family, friends, former colleagues and classmates that you're looking. Some may have some leads for you. Check in with your alumni center. Drag yourself to alumni events. You never know who you might meet and who you can keep in touch with. People need workers, too. They're not just doing you a favor.

I have a co-worker who calls me "kiddo." This drives me bonkers! I am 30; she is 40. Do you think it would be rude to just tell her to stop? I don't want to come off as a pill, but it makes my skin crawl. Not only am I not a child, but I don't think anyone over the age of 10 should be referred to as a "kiddo" — and certainly not in a work environment! I am not sure exactly how to phrase it.

Since I'm in my 30s, I should take that as a compliment, right? Something like that seems doable. It might even be a way for you to think about it. This strikes me as something that you should just shrug off. If she's not treating you like a child, get over it.

I have a master's degree and several years of experience, and I want to move to the D.C. area and work in communications or government relations. How should I discuss my moving plans in my cover letters? Should I state that I am planning to move to the area and that I don't expect an employer to pay for my move? What makes an interviewer decide to bring in an out-of-state applicant?

We've had some good thoughts

on this one lately. Make sure to say in your cover letter that you plan to move to D.C. in the near future, and that you plan to be in town over the next few weeks and would love to meet with someone. That way the paying for flights is sort of a moot point.

Please help. I want to do the right thing, but feel I am walking a tightrope. I have a job offer I am really excited about. The problem is that at my current job we are receiving 2006 bonuses in early March. These payouts are substantial and I cannot walk away from it. Still, I'm worried about holding off my new employer too long, not to mention bad blood with my current employer, with whom I'd like to stay friendly. Any advice on how to handle this?

If you want the new job, take it. You can't put them off just to wait for your bonus. Bad form.

For what it's worth, I have two friends with teeny, tiny nose studs, and both of them work in totally buttoned-down environments. One is a defense contractor on a major military installation, and the other is in a big, male-dominated law firm. One took the stud out for interviews, but put it back in for her first day; the other has never taken hers out. Both are doing fine.

Yep, that's what I would expect. Thanks for the vote of confidence.

I hate "thanks." It drives me crazy when people end e-mails with

Continued on page E15

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Getting Ahead

Continued from page E14

"thanks" when it's not appropriate. For example, "I saw that your light was on so I turned it off. Thanks." or "I'll give you a call before I leave. Thanks." This all seems so unnecessary that it almost dilutes the meaning of the word. I even know someone who has it in her automatic signature.

That's lovely. "I'd like to tell you that you are being downsized today. Thanks."

And that reminds me of another. How about "tnx." Because sometimes it's too hard to type three more letters.

Last week, a co-worker called me and asked a work related question late at night (she was working late, and I didn't have to that night). This has happened often enough that it's been a bother. I want to help her but a strongly believe that my time is just that — my time — not work time. I told her I didn't enjoy the calls and she got a little defensive. She seems to feel that it is my responsibility to be "on call" at work when I think "you work when you work," and don't have obligations outside of that. How would you recommend reconciling our two viewpoints?

If you think she's going to do it to you again, lay it out: Hey there. I just wanted to let you know that I'm going home now. If you need me, I'll be back in the office at 8 a.m. tomorrow. If it's an emergency, I'll be at home and you can call me there. If it can wait, please let it wait until morning."

That way, you are available if she desperately needs you, like when you're working on a project together that needs to be filed to your boss at 8:45 am. But you have put restrictions on it. Would that work for you?

I must disagree with you about the nose piercing. Too many people believe that piercings, tattoos and the like are becoming "the norm" and this simply is not so. If you want to stand out in your office and be perceived as someone who is totally unprofessional, go ahead and get the nose ring. However, be prepared to be passed over for the interview and for the promotion. It is the unspoken law of the workplace — look, act and be professional and conservative or you will not be welcomed. It is tradition; it

is conservative; and right or wrong, it is not going to change anyway soon.

I disagree. Obviously. You can still look and be professional even if you have your nose pierced. As I said (about a dozen times now), you can remove the stud when in an interview. The hole left behind is not big enough for people to notice.

If people have to leave behind all of themselves to get a job, then I would think the workplace would be worse than a Dilbert cartoon. Dull.

“ You can still look and be professional even if you have your nose pierced. You can remove the stud when in an interview.”

AMY JOYCE, WASHINGTON POST CAREER COLUMNIST

one-dimensional, boring.

It is important to look professional, which might mean covering up tattoos or removing piercings for an interview, presentation, meeting. There are options. I bet you work with people who have both and you have no idea.

Amy, do employers really frown upon long breaks in employment history? I'm 25 and have held various intern positions over the last four years. Recently, I've considered moving overseas for a while and looking for a job that is not in my field before I eventually (hopefully) settle into a more permanent position back in the U.S. Would this be detrimental to my future employment outlook or are employers more forgiving than I think they are?

It depends. But most employers are truly used to and accept a gap or two (or several) in the resume. In fact, they've probably been there themselves. If you want to go overseas and can afford it, then you should go. You can always think of how your experiences pertain to the jobs you apply for when you return. It may be a selling point, in fact.

I have an extremely sensitive and overweight middle-age female admin person who helps in my department part-time. She smells so bad (unwashed smell!) I want to throw up. No one else will complain about her. She came into my department last May, and I made a mistake by not saying something to her when she came here but she had been shuttled from one department to another (demoted by

head boss) and can be emotionally unstable. I will need to approach my HR department to help me but of course this may very well ruin the relationship and trust I am trying to build with her and I am trying to help her confidence level in other areas. I feel I will be the bad guy no matter what happens. What do other people do in this situation? We are moving in a few months to an office area where I will be stationed even closer to her physically.

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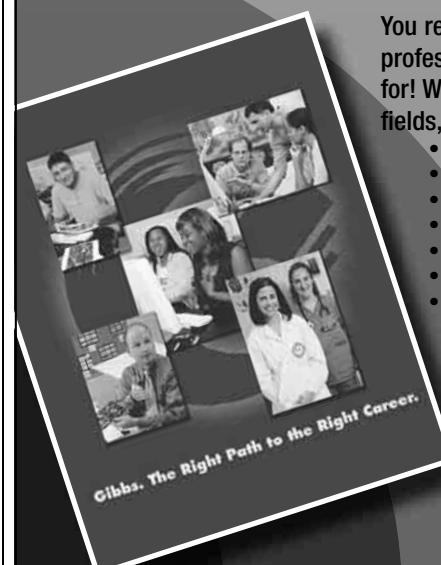
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